Chamber asks DHS for minimal CW-1 cut in FY 2018. PAGE 2
Weintraub admits mistake but denies dilatory tactic. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

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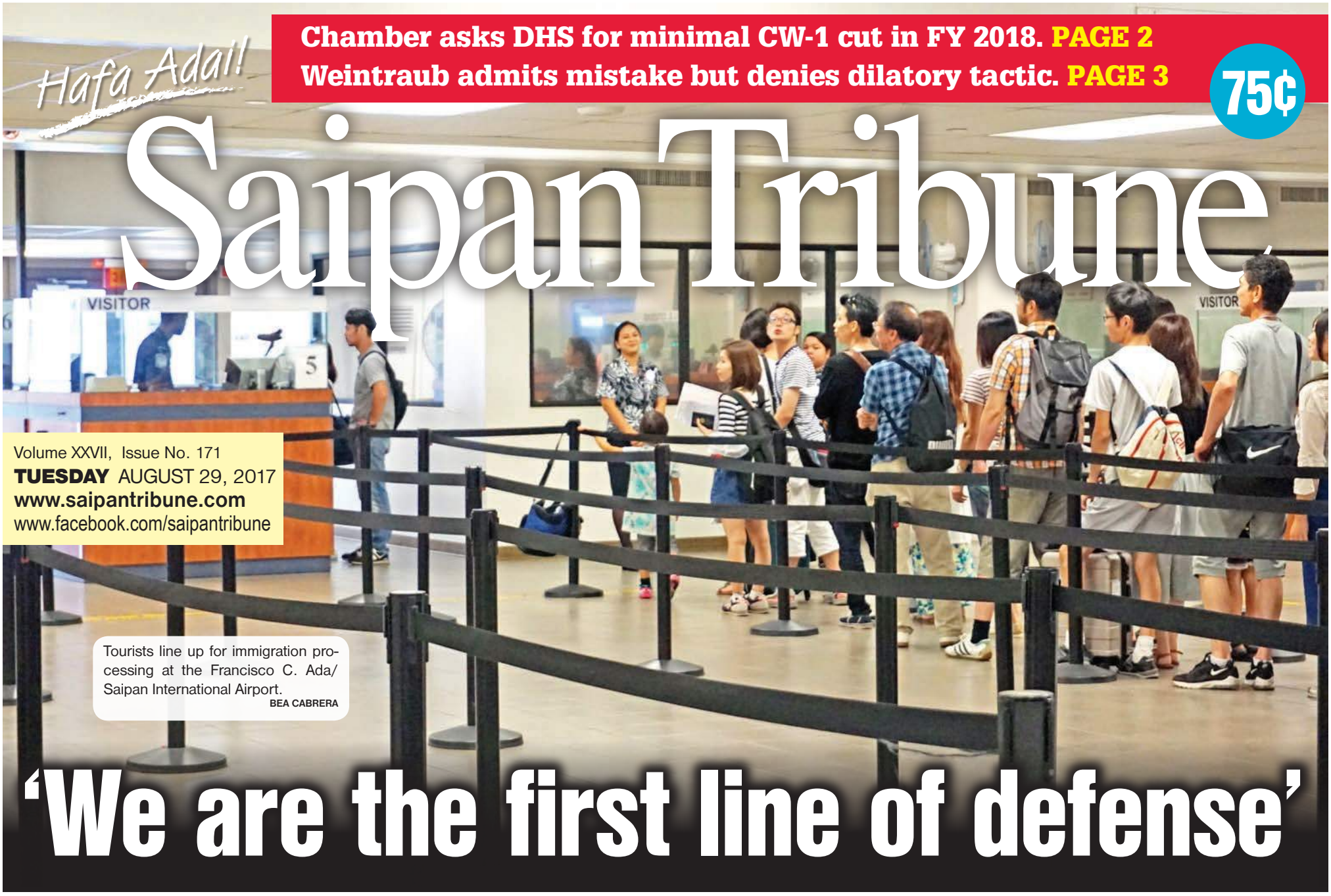

Tourists line up for immigration processing at the Francisco C. Ada/ Saipan International Airport.
BEA CABRERA

'We are the first line of defense'

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. Customs and Border Protection enforces the laws of 40 different federal agencies and being one of the Unites States' first line of defense when it comes to customs and border protection is something they do with earnest intent.

"CBP officers and staff have as much invested in the islands as everybody else here. They care about the islands, they want to protect it, and they work really hard. These guys are here at least 40 hours week but majority of them are here 60 to 70 hours a week," said CPB director Robert Havens.

See DEFENSE on Page 4

LACK OF MALPRACTICE INSURANCE FOR CHC DOCTORS

'A problem plaguing NMI for years'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A big problem that has been plaguing the CNMI for many years is the lack of medical malpractice insurance that covers physicians at the Commonwealth Health Center, according to attorney Claire Kelleher-Smith.

The other problem, Kelleher-Smith said, is the government's reliance on the Government Liability Act, rather than obtaining medical malpractice insurance.

"This problem has been preventing victims of medical malpractice at CHC from obtaining meaningful

See PROBLEM on Page 4

Tropical disturbance brings heavy rain

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Navy rescues 5 Tinian students stranded on Goat Island

A developing tropical disturbance centered about 90 miles north of Agrihan will bring numerous heavy showers in the CNMI through Wednesday.

The U.S. National Weather Service in Guam issued a small craft advisory yesterday due to the tropical disturbance.

Five male teenagers were stranded on Goat Island.

In coordination with the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management Office, a U.S. Navy

See TROPICAL on Page 4

Torres: We are working on CW issues

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres assured that he and other community members are working on a long-term fix to the labor crisis besetting the CNMI.

Torres said yesterday that his administration and other stakeholders are working on a CW-1 bill to propose to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP).

"For several months now, we have

See TORRES on Page 4

INSIDE

BUSINESS
Harvey could have far-reaching consequences for Texas' oil and gas industry.
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NATION
Harvey sends devastating floods pouring into the nation's fourth-largest city.
PAGE 14

WORLD
Military police buried the 100th officer to be killed in Rio de Janeiro state this year.
PAGE 16

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IT&E

Local

Chamber asks DHS for minimal CW-1 cut in FY 2018

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Aware that an economy without enough workers could lead to a decline in economic activity, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce has reached out to the Department of Homeland Security to ask for a minimal reduction in the CW-1 cap for fiscal year 2018.

Chamber president Velma Palacios initiated the request in a letter to DHS last June 2017.

The Chamber is made up of 160 private businesses, government agencies, and nonprofit organizations in the CNMI, making it the largest organization on the islands.

"We humbly ask that the [fiscal year] 2018 cap be set at a minimum reduction of one person only, as the case for 2017. Our island needs every available worker. No person willing and able to work remains unable to find employment. Our foreign workforce is keeping our economy alive as we strive prosperity for our people," Palacios said.

Although the foreign worker cap for fiscal year 2018 has not been set yet, it is required by law to be less than the 12,998 workers allowed in fiscal year 2017.

DHS dictates the number of CW-1 workers required each fiscal year.

As per DHS regulation, they provide the CW-1 cap for any fiscal year and the number will be less than the number for the previous year.

Palacios said the current workforce issue not only affects business ventures but the entire economy of the CNMI.

She added the business community has implemented many programs to reach the goal of utilizing every possible U.S. eligible worker on island and to entice other eligible workers from other geographical locations.

"The current expansion of our economy has made the need for foreign workers still necessary. In fact, the recent U.S. Government Accountability Office report stated that with no CW-1 workers, the CNMI's gross domestic product would decline by 26 to 62 percent," Palacios added.

In its response last Aug. 8, DHS, through acting director James W. McCament, said they continue to evaluate the CW-1 cap on a yearly basis to ensure compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements.

According to McCament, they will be consistent in determining the CW-1 cap for the fiscal year 2018.

"As in previous years, DHS will base its decision on a number of factors including the need to reduce the number to zero by the end of the transition period to further maximize the recruitment of U.S. workers, and to facilitate the transition into the U.S. immigration system," he said.

Last week, H.R. 339 became law, opening up 350 mores slots for fiscal year 2017.

The CNMI is allowed 12,998 CW-1 workers in fiscal year 2017. With the additional 350, the CNMI is now allowed to have up to 13,348.

H.R. 339 is a unique legislation that sets aside 60 CW-1 slots for health-related occupations essential to the Commonwealth Health Center as well as 10 CW-1 slots for Commonwealth Utilities Corp. engineers, leaving a total of 280 slots for the rest of the private sector.

It is not yet clear if the same law will be extended in fiscal year 2018. In the meantime, DHS acknowledges the Chamber's efforts to implement programs to meet workforce needs and request to impose a minimal reduction for upcoming CW-1 cap.

RIBBON CUTTING
Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog cut the ribbon of the newly-renovated Koblerville basketball court yesterday.
ERWIN ENCINARES

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Northern Marianas Humanities Council
Navigating the Human Experience

Call for Nominations
2017 Governor's Humanities Awards

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council is accepting nominations for the 2017 Governor's Humanities Awards.

This event, held annually in October as a part of CNMI Humanities Month, recognizes outstanding contributions to the humanities by individuals and organizations in the community.

Nominees should have a notable humanities achievement in the past year, as demonstrated in any of the following four categories:

- **Research and Publication in the Humanities;**
- **Preservation of Traditional Cultural Practices;**
- **Preservation of CNMI History; and**
- **Outstanding Humanities Teacher (in both classroom and non-classroom settings).**

A fifth category, **Lifetime Achievement**, recognizes significant contributions to the humanities over multiple decades. This award may be given posthumously.

Nomination forms and instructions are available at the Council's office in the Springs Plaza Building, Gualo Rai, or on the council website at www.northernmarianashumanities.org.

Nominations may be made by any member of the general public and **are due no later than 4:30 p.m. on Friday, 13 October 2017.**

Awards will be presented in a special ceremony in October (time, date and venue to be announced).

For more information, contact council staff at 235-4785

Weintraub admits mistake but denies dilatory tactic

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Assistant attorney general Betsy Weintraub has admitted that she made a mistake in the sexual abuse case of a retired Army reservist but denied that it was a delaying tactic.

In response to an order to show cause, Weintraub also denied having a pattern of dismissing and re-charging cases.

She insists that her 10-year law career has enabled her to develop a "reputation of being a fair and honest" attorney.

Weintraub showed letters and emails of several attorneys in Memphis, including J. Ross Dyer, a sitting judge on the Court of Criminal Appeals of Tennessee, who attested to her good character.

Weintraub spent most of her career practicing law in Memphis, Tennessee.

Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio had directed Weintraub to appear in court today, Tuesday, to explain why she should not be sanctioned in the case against Michael Barry Murphy.

Weintraub had moved to dismiss the case against 54-year-old Murphy as the government would be unable to prove its case. The prosecution has the option to re-file the case in the future.

Kim-Tenorio ruled that insufficient evidence warrants dismissing Murphy's case.

Weintraub said that when she reviewed the initial report in Murphy's case in September 2016, she failed to recognize the need for the alleged victim's clothing to be tested for DNA.

Weintraub said she made this assessment based on the factual allegations in the case, the lack of stains on the clothing, and the delayed reporting of the incident at issue, but that her assessment turned out to be wrong.

She said this was not a dilatory tactic, but a mistake.

She said Kim-Tenorio addressed the mistake when the court heard the government's motion to continue the trial in March.

Weintraub said the mistake delayed the processing of the physical evidence in the case, but denies that anything about the delay was intentional or even due to a lack of diligence.

She said when the physical evidence was submitted for processing in February 2017, neither party knew what would result from the testing and both parties were interested in the outcome.

"An important function of the prosecutor is to search for truth, regardless of whether the evidence is favorable to the defense or the prosecution," Weintraub said.

She said when it appeared that analysis of the physical evidence may aid in that search for the truth, she immediately took steps to submit the evidence for processing, without regard for whether the evidence would implicate or exonerate Murphy.

Weintraub said because both parties were interested in the processing of the physical evidence, both parties agreed to move the trial from April 3, 2017, to Sept. 11, 2017.

On the pattern issue, Weintraub said she dismissed and re-charged only one case in the CNMI.

She said the reason for the dismissal was that neither side was prepared for trial and both parties needed more time to complete their investigations.

Soon after the dismissal, Weintraub said she visited the victim and determined that the charges were warranted.

She said the government re-filed the charges by penal summons per the agreement with the defense counsel.

National GOP leaders' push for equal US citizenship is backed

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.coM
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and several members of the Legislature support the Republican Party's push for "equal U.S. citizenship" to be extended to the three U.S. territories.

Sponsored by U.S. Virgin Islands' national committeeman Jevon Williams, the Republic National Committee last Friday adopted a resolution titled "Affirming Equal Citizenship for All Americans," which is set to be submitted to U.S. President Donald J. Trump, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, U.S. House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI), and Senate Majority leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY).

The resolution says U.S. citizens residing in the "territories of Guam, NMI, and the Virgin Islands," regardless of their sex, race, color, ethnicity, religion or creed, are "entitled to the full of enjoyment of their citizenship."

Americans in U.S. territories are U.S. citizens but cannot vote for the U.S. President, nor do they have full representation in Congress.

The resolution calls for the U.S. Congress to "ensure that American citizens residing in the territories of Guam, NMI, and the Virgin Islands to have unfettered enjoyment of their American citizenship." The resolution states that citizens residing in the territories should also enjoy the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, also known as the right of people to keep and bear arms.

When asked about the "equal U.S. citizenship" portion of the resolution, Torres said he has always supported the intent of the resolution even during his tenure as a Saipan senator, citing a past resolution introduced during his time at the Senate.

Rep. Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) also backs the intent of the resolution.

"It would be good for U.S. citizens to be allowed to vote for the U.S. president," said Deleon Guerrero, adding that party affiliation is irrelevant. "Whoever wins [the presidential elections]—and if he knows the people of the CNMI voted for him—then he is going to take care of us," he said. "If a president garners the most votes from a territory, of course we would be taken cared of."

Along with equal rights, Sen. Justo Quitugua (Ind-Saipan) believes that U.S. citizens in the CNMI and other territories should have the right to vote for the U.S. president, as well as full representation in Congress.

"I am in support with the intent to provide equal rights for NMI residents and other territories. I also support the right for [our delegate] to participate in the whole U.S. House sessions and for the right to vote on U.S. House bills," said Quitugua, adding that with equal rights, NMI residents may be "treated equally in terms of grants and other opportunities not extended to the CNMI and the other territories."

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) represents the CNMI in Congress but he is a non-voting delegate, which means he is only allowed to attend committee meetings of the U.S. House and vote at the committee level. He is at present a member of the U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources, U.S. House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and a member of the U.S. House Committee on Education and Workforce.

Sablan, Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan), and Sen. Sixto Igisomar (R-Saipan) were not able to respond to email messages as of press time.

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PROBLEM

From Page 1

recovery. That is the real problem," said Kelleher-Smith, who is counsel for Remedio Elameto and her husband, Pedro Pua.

Elameto and Pua are suing the CNMI government and former CHC doctors Gary Ramsey and Rajee Iyer for medical malpractice.

The lack of medical malpractice insurance in the CNMI was brought up in Elameto and Pua's non-opposition to a stay in the implementation of a portion of a Superior Court order that found provisions of the Government Liability Act to be unconstitutional, during pendency of the government's appeal from such ruling.

In his order issued in connection with the couple's lawsuit last Aug. 11, Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho invalidated the substitution provisions of the Government Liability Act.

Camacho ruled that the Act's damages cap, substitution provision, prohibition on punitive damages, and restriction on the availability of jury trials fail constitutional examination.

The ruling has prompted the Office of the Attorney General and Ramsey to ask the court to put Elameto's case on hold while they appeal Camacho's decision to the CNMI Supreme Court.

In support of the joint request, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther L. Muna recently notified the Office of the Attorney General that the hospital would cease performing non-emergent surgical procedures starting Aug. 16 until the court overturns its ruling.

Muna said the OAG had advised her that the court's opinion could lead to a surgeon being denied government's substitution if sued for a surgery performed in the scope of his or her employment.

Under the ruling, she said, a surgeon would only be able to expect indemnification by the government, which would require appropriation by the legislature in the event that surgeon is found liable.

Muña said medical malpractice insurance is not available in the Commonwealth because the size of the medical community in the CNMI is too small to create a sufficient risk pool.

Muña met with CHCC's surgical staff last Aug. 14 and informed them of the court's decision. The surgical staff is unwilling to perform surgeries as the risk of personal liability is too great without protection under the Government Liability Act.

CHC is the only hospital and surgical facility on Saipan.

Last Friday, Kelleher-Smith noted that 14 months ago, the couple filed their objection to the substitution of Ramsey, but during those period, the government apparently took no action to prepare for a ruling in favor of the couple.

"Now, the government sounds the alarm that there is an emergency," Kelleher-Smith said, adding that there is no emergency.

The lawyer said there is a problem in need of a solution—a real solution that benefits and protects both the patients served by CHC, and medical professionals employed by CHC.

She said the solution is not to stay pending litigation that resulted from clear medical malpractice.

Kelleher-Smith said the solution is for CHC to put in place medical malpractice insurance that can provide meaningful recoveries when accidents do happen, screen out uninsurable medical professionals from practicing at CHC, and insure it has competent doctors.

She said the Government Liability Act has served to deny victims of medical malpractice compensation for their damages, and allowed CHC to employ medical professionals with a history of negligence.

"If medical malpractice insurance were in place, victims would have their claims addressed, and hopefully there would be fewer claims because doctors who cannot be insured due to repeated acts of malpractice would not be employable at CHC," she said.

Kelleher-Smith does not agree with the government's statements that medical malpractice insurance is unavailable in the CNMI.

The lawyer said they believe that insurance can be obtained and that they are willing to work with the government to help find a policy for CHC.

Until that policy is in place, Kelleher-Smith said the plaintiffs will agree to a conditional stay of the implementation of the portion of Camacho's order.

To promote the public's interest, Kelleher-Smith suggested that the court grant a stay, and require the government to investigate the availability and cost of medical malpractice policies for the medical professionals at CHC.

She said the government should also report its progress monthly to the court and plaintiffs while the order is stayed.

"This practical outcome protects the interests of CHC employees, allows for the ongoing provision of surgical services at CHC, and yet does not ignore the reality that the system in place must change so that it also protects the rights of patients who are injured by CHC malpractice," Kelleher-Smith said.

Last Aug. 17, the Commonwealth filed an appeal before the high court to secure appellate review of Camacho's order.

Elameto and Pua are suing the CNMI government, Iyer, and Ramsey for medical malpractice, bad faith, and emotional distress and loss of consortium.

Elameto claimed that a surgical team at CHC left a 15-centimeter-long surgical clamp in her abdomen during a surgery to address her irregular periods and ovarian cysts at CHC on Saipan in August 2000.

It was in June 2014 or almost 14 years later when the surgical clamp was discovered and removed at Guam Memorial Hospital.

TROPICAL

From Page 1

helicopter picked up the stranded students from Goat Island and airlifted them back to Tinian yesterday morning.

Saipan Tribune confirmed with the Tinian Department of Public Safety that they received information yesterday at 8am that five students were stranded on Goat Island and could not be picked up by boat because of the small craft warning.

The Homeland Security and Emergency Management Office then coordinated with the U.S. Coast Guard and the U.S. Navy for the rescue.

According to the U.S. National Weather Service, the tropical disturbance will gradually drift northward this afternoon, Tuesday.

Converging strong winds south of the tropical disturbance's center will continue to trigger numerous heavy showers, isolated thunderstorms, and locally heavy downpours through Wednesday.

"If you are planning any outdoor activities through Wednesday, be alert for hazardous weather and aware of current conditions and be prepared to move indoors," NWS said in a statement.

NWS said mariners operating small vessels should be prepared for strong winds and choppy seas.

"Beach goers and swimmers should stay close to shore and immediately move indoors if lightning is present," NWS said.

TORRES

From Page 1

been working on a CW bill for the long run, including an extension, and the number of CW-1 slots we are requesting," said the governor.

Torres is working with members of the private sector through the Strategic Economic Develop Council and the Northern Marianas Business Alliance Corp.

Torres, however, has yet to meet with Sablan regarding the CW-1 package.

He said he appreciates the 350 slots added to the CNMI's CW-1 quota for the fiscal year, thanks to Sablan's H.R. 339, which U.S. President Donald J. Trump enacted last week.

"… Ultimately, lives are going to be saved [with] nurses and engineers and so forth. … Our goal is to increase [the CW-1 slots] to 18,000 and then extend it for another 10 years," said Torres on the goals of the CW package.

"It is our job to make sure that Congress understands our situation and to advocate our situations here," said the governor, adding that what he wishes from Congress is not a bailout but to "not restrict hiring our labor because without our workforce we won't be able to develop our infrastructure."

Torres wishes that the local government is more involved in discussions as well to "dictate what our goals are here."

"Without the government's involvement, it is very difficult to project what kind of workforce is being applied," said Torres, without mentioning a specific timeline for the package as well as a timeline for when he is meeting with Sablan.

In previous interviews with Sablan, he reiterated multiple times that H.R. 339 is meant to be a short-term fix.

DEFENSE

From Page 1

CBP has been in the spotlight lately, mostly about the congestion and long lines that passengers in the night flight schedule have to go through at the airport's arrival area. The night schedule from midnight to 6am is notorious for long immigration lines that last three to four hours.

According to Havens, most of the airlines that arrive in the night schedule come from China and the big challenge is processing each and every Chinese national that enter the CNMI—considered an entry to the United States of America.

It only takes a few minutes to process U.S. citizens, green card holders, and non-Chinese nationals that have U.S. tourist visas because they have been pre-vetted and Automated Passport Control machines at the airport installed by the Commonwealth Ports Authority hasten the processing of these individuals.

Chinese nationals who enter the CNMI usually don't go through the process of getting a U.S. visa, like most countries. They do not acquire a visa in entering the CNMI, but a conditional parole.

"In other parts of the world, if one were to apply for a U.S. visa, you would have to sit in front of a consul, provide an application, have an interview, anywhere between 5 minutes to 15 minutes and they adjudicate and make a determination to issue you or not a U.S. visa."

"During low season we get 1,200 to 1,500 people. During peak season we get 3,000 to 3,500 arrivals at the airport and, in all of that, 2,500 Chinese nationals in one day. Since the Chinese are not vetted before they get here, we have to do that basic interview on the line," Havens added.

To maintain effective immigration control and check the eligibility of passengers, processing every Chinese national take up some time, Havens said.

Havens

"They have added documentary requirements such as I-94, I-736 forms to fill, show a valid passport, show proof that they have a non-refundable plane ticket, hotel room and we ask them the purpose of their trip to the United States," he said.

The language barrier is also a factor in the prolonged time of processing Chinese passengers. According to Havens, the CBP has available translators. This helps them communicate with the passengers but it is a reality that this procedure takes time.

He said the previous issue with illegal workers who pose as tourists but eventually got jobs while in the CNMI kept CBP officers alert, hence the processing and extra vetting required.

"Those we find ineligible for entry, we send back. We have actually refused entry to a lot of them coming in this year," he said.

Other issues the CBP faces are lack of manpower, limited facility, and computer efficiency issues that holds up the processing lines in the nighttime schedule at the airport.

"We are in the process of hiring more officers as we are aware that there is an issue with staffing. We have been told that we have many people in the pipeline that have been approved, passed the test on Saipan, and we are working on a lot of the tests to be done on island like the polygraph [test]. We are working on doing that for them and we are negotiating with CBP headquarters," Havens said.

Even if the CBP has enough manpower, the current space in the airport will still not fix it, he said.

"In CPA's defense, they have to work through CBP headquarters and it's a very long and drawn-up process. CPA can go and knock down walls to expand the building but they have to get approval from CBP officers in the headquarters. It's not an easy process," Havens said.

"CBP knows we have a computer issue and the plan is to have 80 percent of our systems replaced. We are doing everything in our power to alleviate the CBP," he added.

According to Havens, even if CBP hires more manpower, the current congestion and long lines will remain if new airlines will come in at night.

"A lot of the cause of delay in the lines is out of our control. The only thing we can is not letting a plane in. We don't want to stop people and airlines from coming to the CNMI. We just ask the airlines to work with us and to find a better solution and not come during those peak hours, to fly off peak hours when we are not busy and we can handle those flights," Havens said.

"It's huge what we do. It's a monumental task and we like to say we take our jobs very seriously. We understand that we are trusted with protecting the United States of America and everything in it. If we are wrong just one time, something bad happens and we won't allow that," he added.

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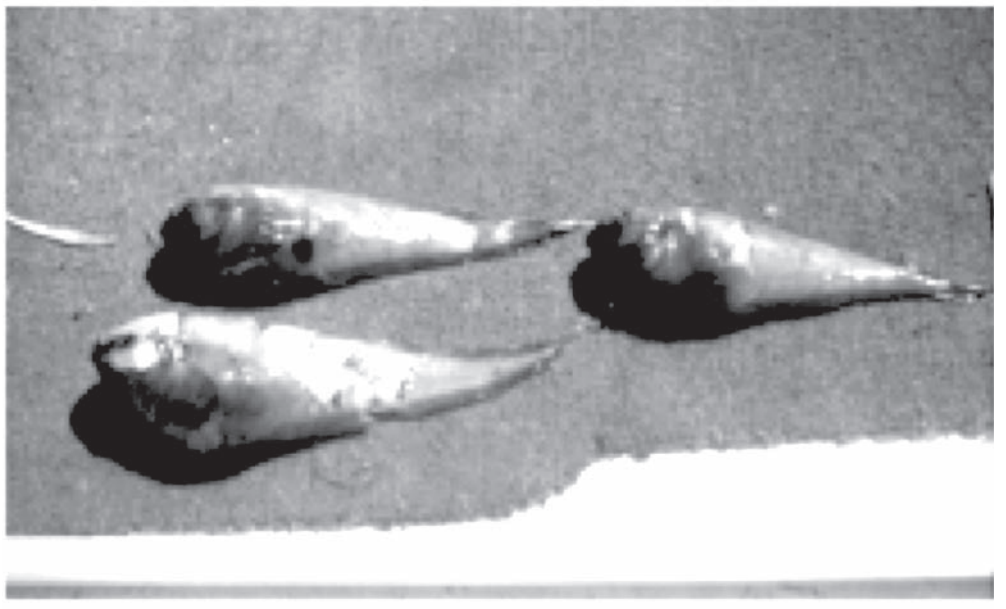
Name that fish contest



The snailfishes from the shrimp traps.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Three snailfishes to be named were collected during a National Marine Fisheries Service survey for deepwater shrimp in the Mariana Islands in the early 1980s and have yet to be named up to now.

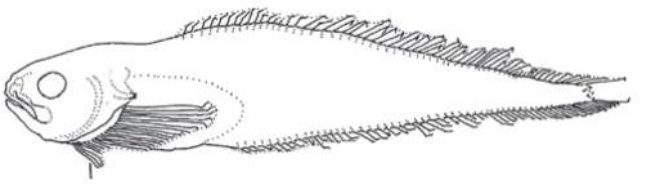
The specimens were caught in shrimp traps at a depth of 3,000 to 4,000 feet.

They are now a part of the Oregon State University Ichthyology Collection.

There are three snailfishes to be named. The use of Chamorro or Carolinian is recommended. Combinations such as words for snail and fish or words for deep ocean could be used. The characteristics described for each fish could also be used. Island history, culture, or legends can be a source for fish names.

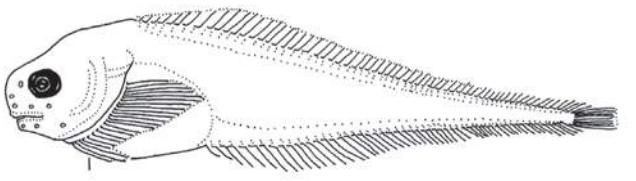
The naming committee in Guam will select the best three suggestions for each species and send them to the experts at Oregon State University who will make the final choices.

Snailfishes are in the family Liparidae and may be the most widely distributed family of fishes. They are found in warm to cold waters, from the intertidal to mid and deep waters. They are found from the Arctic to the Antarctic, in polar and temperate regions, and at depth in equatorial regions. The deepest fish ever seen was a snailfish filmed on video at 8,143 meters (26,716 feet) near the Sirena Deep in the Mariana Trench.



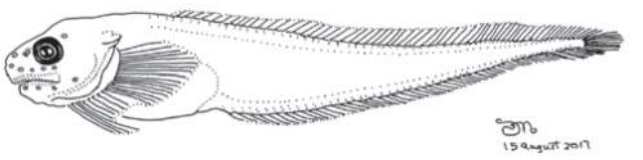
Genus: Paraliparis. Species A: Oblique or angled mouth. Long ribbed.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Genus: Paraliparis. Species B: Long ribbed. Chin pores in a pit. Collected off Tinian Island.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Genus: Paraliparis. Species C: Short ribbed. More pectoral fin rays than the other two species. Collected off Anatahan Island.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The body of a snailfish is long and without scales. Their heads are large with small eyes. The fish are fragile with jellylike skin so when they are caught in traps they do not arrive at the surface in good condition. The largest species can reach a length of 31 inches, the smallest is about 2 inches. The largest snailfish can weigh up to 24 lbs but most are considerably smaller.

Currently there are 30 genera described with about 410 species. New species continue to be discovered.

Limited to one name per fish per person. Specify Species A, B or C and justify the name you suggest in a short paragraph.

Submit your entry to Linda Tatreau lindian@teleguam.net. Last day to submit names is Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2017. ***(PR)***

Torres' statement on Harvey and flooding in Houston

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres issued yesterday the following statement on Hurricane Harvey and the flooding in Houston:

"My thoughts and prayers are with our people in Houston going through the rainfall from Hurricane Harvey. If you have family or friends in Houston or in the area, please check in with them to make sure they are safe. I will continue to monitor the situation and will check in with our folks down there. As Chamorros and Carolinians, our people are resilient and will continue to be strong in the face of any disaster that comes our way. Please keep Houston and the Gulf Coast in your prayers." ***(PR)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB17-COTA/FTA-205

SUBMISSION: SEPTEMBER 13, 2017 TIME: 11:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) MEDIUM-DUTY LOW FLOOR ADA ACCESSIBLE TRANSIT BUS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OFFICE OF TRANSIT AUTHORITY"

THE SPECIFICATIONS FOR THIS PROJECT WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER **AUGUST 22, 2017** AT COTA, OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION, 2ND FLOOR SUITE MARIANAS BUSINESS PLAZA, NAURU LOOP, SUSUPE, SAIPAN.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; BIDDERS ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH FTA FEDERAL CONTRACT CLAUSES AS APPLICABLE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ALFREDA P. CAMACHO
SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS JUDICIARY
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB17-JUDICIARY-10

SUBMISSION DATE: August 29th, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"CASE MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE FOR DRUG COURTS FOR THE CNMI DRUG COURT"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE CASHIER WINDOW, DOOR #5, LOCATED AT THE GUMA HUSTISIA / IIMWAL AWEEWE / HOUSE OF JUSTICE, SUSUPE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTIONS 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ HON. ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO
JUDICIARY EXPENDITURE AUTHORITY

/S/ JOHN T. VILLAGOMEZ
JUDICIARY PROCUREMENT OFFICER

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Commonwealth Judiciary Administrative Office
Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165, Saipan MP 96950
Telephone (670) 236-9770 Facsimile (670)236-9797

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB17-JUDICIARY-11
SUBMISSION DATE: September 5th, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"MOVABLE FILING CABINETS (FIXED TRACK) FOR THE CNMI OFFICE OF ADULT PROBATION"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE CASHIER WINDOW, DOOR #5, LOCATED AT THE GUMA HUSTISIA / IIMWAL AWEEWE / HOUSE OF JUSTICE, SUSUPE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTIONS 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO
CHIEF JUSTICE

JOHN T. VILLAGOMEZ
JUDICIARY PROCUREMENT OFFICER

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Commonwealth Judiciary Administrative Office
Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165, Saipan MP 96950
Telephone (670) 236-9770 Facsimile (670)236-9797

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB17-JUDICIARY-12
SUBMISSION DATE: September 5th, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"ONLINE LEGAL RESEARCH SERVICES FOR THE CNMI JUDICIARY"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE CASHIER WINDOW, DOOR #5, LOCATED AT THE GUMA HUSTISIA / IIMWAL AWEEWE / HOUSE OF JUSTICE, SUSUPE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTIONS 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO
CHIEF JUSTICE

JOHN T. VILLAGOMEZ
JUDICIARY PROCUREMENT OFFICER

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP17-BECQ/DEQ-192

SUBMISSION: SEPTEMBER 18, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"GROUNDWATER SAMPLING OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE, A PROJECT UNDER THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND COASTAL QUALITY"

THE SCOPE OF WORK IS AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER AUGUST 22, 2017 FROM THE BECQ OFFICE OR BY E-MAIL REQUEST TO derekchambers@becq.gov.mp QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP CAN BE EMAILED TO derekchambers@becq.gov.mp NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, SEPTEMBER 07, 2017.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A PROPOSAL IF IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ FRANK M. RABAULIMAN
ADMINISTRATOR OF BECQ

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Commonwealth Judiciary Administrative Office
Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165, Saipan MP 96950
Telephone (670) 236-9770 Facsimile (670)236-9797

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB17-JUDICIARY-13
SUBMISSION DATE: September 5th, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"THREE (3) DEHUMIDIFIERS (DUCTED) FOR THE CNMI JUDICIARY, GUMA HUSTISIA"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE CASHIER WINDOW, DOOR #5, LOCATED AT THE GUMA HUSTISIA / IIMWAL AWEEWE / HOUSE OF JUSTICE, SUSUPE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTIONS 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO
CHIEF JUSTICE

JOHN T. VILLAGOMEZ
JUDICIARY PROCUREMENT OFFICER

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB17-MUSEUM-204

SUBMISSION: SEPTEMBER 13, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF A 4 X 2 PICK-UP TRUCK WITH ACCESS CAB FOR THE NMI MUSEUM OF HISTORY & CULTURE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JOHN DLR. GONZALES
CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF GOVERNORS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS JUDICIARY
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP17-JUDICIARY-04

SUBMISSION DATE: August 29th, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"DRUG COURT TREATMENT SERVICES FOR THE CNMI DRUG COURT"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE CASHIER WINDOW, DOOR #5, LOCATED AT THE GUMA HUSTISIA / IIMWAL AWEEWE / HOUSE OF JUSTICE, SUSUPE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTIONS 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO
CHIEF JUSTICE

/S/ JOHN T. VILLAGOMEZ
JUDICIARY PROCUREMENT OFFICER

Interior's Zinke recommends local access to monument

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke wants the Marianas Trench Monument to continue to be federally protected, but acknowledged that it should be accessible as a resource to those who live in the area.

In his report to President Donald J. Trump last Friday, Zinke recommends that the 27 national monuments, including the Marianas Trench Marine Monument, should continue to be federally protected, with a change as to who may access the monuments' grounds.

Trump tasked Zinke to review a total of 27 national and marine monuments that were established since 1996 that are over 100,000 acres (the Marianas Trench Marine Monument being one) for 120 days since the executive order back in April.

The review was intended to provide recommendations to the administration on which monuments should be scaled down and those that should be eradicated and turned over to their respective states.

The review was based on three steps, according to Zinke's report.

First, Zinke was required to gather facts through examinations of what the monument protected, why it became federally protected under the Antiquities Act, uses of the monument, public and traditional access concerns, etc.

Second was to hear out local voices that would be directly affected by the eradication of the monument. Meetings were held and comments were welcomed through the department's website. The department received over 2.5 million comments. Comments were received from proponents and opponents.

The third step required Zinke to review the facts gathered and to provide a report to the administration.

According to Zinke's report, each monument is unique in its own way, but the Marianas Trench Marine Monument is deemed aligned with the Antiquities Act's original purpose, which is preservation.

The Marianas Trench, like all the other monuments that were reviewed by Zinke, was strongly supported by the community. It is also deemed beneficial to the economy through increased tourism, but those benefits are not being realized because the Antiquities Act do not make them accessible.

Zinke believes that the monuments, like the Marianas Trench Marine Monument, should not be inaccessible to the people who should reap the monument's benefits.

"No president should use the authority under the Antiquities Act to restrict public access, prevent hunting and fishing, burden private land, or eliminate traditional land uses, unless such action is needed to protect the object," said Zinke.

Zinke's report states that the monument should remain as it is, under federal ownership, but a compromise should be made in regards to accessibility.

"The recommendations I sent to the President on national monuments (including marine monuments) will maintain federal ownership of all federal land and protect the land under federal environmental regulations, and also provide a much needed change for the local communities who border and rely on these lands for hunting and fishing, economic development, traditional uses, and recreation," he said.

Husband allegedly strangles wife

A man allegedly choked his wife and hit her in the face in front of their 2-year-old daughter at their home in Tanapag last Thursday morning.

The alleged beating happened less than two weeks after Ivan Teigita Dela Cruz also reportedly hit his wife in the mouth, causing her front tooth to get loose.

Dela Cruz, 44, was arrested in Tanapag on Saturday afternoon for assault and battery and disturbing the peace. His bail was set last Friday at $10,000 cash; preliminary hearing is on Aug. 31 at 9am.

Assistant public defender Jamal Saleh was appointed counsel for Dela Cruz. Assistant attorney general Jonathan Wilberscheid appeared for the government.

Police detective Catherine B. Pangelinan said the victim called her and was crying on the phone last Thursday because her husband allegedly strangled her.

The victim told police that Dela Cruz had woken up angry, still smarting from an argument they had the night before. Dela Cruz allegedly said some profanities at the victim in front of their children. He then allegedly choked her. She ran to a car and, as she was backing out, Dela Cruz allegedly hit their car with a tree branch. Their 2-year-old daughter, who was in the car, was crying and shouting at her father to stop, but Dela Cruz allegedly went to the car's front hood and punched it.

He then went to the driver's side window and allegedly hit the victim's face with his left hand, causing her to feel dizzy.

The victim disclosed that last Aug. 16, Dela Cruz also hit her in the mouth. As a result, her lower front tooth became loose. She said he also punched the back of her head.

The wife said she's been calling the police several times in the past for help but Dela Cruz would manage to run off before the police's arrival. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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The CNMI REACH program aims to improve enforcement of the CNMI Smoke Free Law as well as educate about the law. For more information please call 236-8791 or email heejlee@hawaii.edu.

DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Caller Box 10007, Gualo Rai Center, Saipan MP 96950
TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315

2017 CRI Summer Internship

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, in partnership with the Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW), the Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance (MINA), and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) hosted 9 interns over the summer as part of the Coral Reef Initiative (CRI) Summer Internship Program. Nine current and incoming college students from the Northern Marianas College, most of them Natural Resource Management majors, participated in the 10-week internship. Based on their academic and career interests, interns were placed in one of 6 sections, including Water Quality/Non-point Source Pollution, Planning & Coastal Hazards, Fisheries, and the Marine Monitoring Team. The interns worked on special projects under the guidance of their respective mentors and at the end of the 10 weeks presented on their work.

Since 2002, the CRI Summer Internship Program has worked to raise student awareness of coral reef health, threats, and the efforts to protect them. Students are given a rare opportunity to gain hands-on experience in natural resource management and coral reef conservation, and are encouraged to pursue a post-secondary education and eventual careers in these fields.

We'd like to thank and acknowledge all of our 2017 CRI Summer Interns: Stephen Barro, Water Quality/Non-Point Source Pollution; Kiana Sablan and Jason Bonachita, NOAA; Tricia Magallano and Atanacio Naputi, Planning and Coastal Hazards; Raymond Nakazato, MINA; Ras Raven Saimon, DFW Fisheries; and Talianna Magofna and Miguel Naputi, Marine Monitoring Team. Lastly, thank you to this year's mentors and everyone who continues to make this program a success.

If you, or someone you know, is interested in becoming a summer intern, please visit www.cnmicoralreef.com or contact the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality at 664-8500.

Tinian Mayor's Office launches new Facebook page

Tinian Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas is inviting all Tinian residents, both on-island and abroad, to "Like" and follow the Tinian Mayor's Office's new Facebook page.

The new Facebook page can be found at https://www.facebook.com/tinianmayor96952.

The new page—titled "Office of the Mayor of Tinian and Aguiguan"—was created and will be managed by the Tinian Mayor's Office's Public Information Office.

San Nicolas

The purpose of the Facebook page is to disseminate photos and videos of local fiestas, holiday festivities, public hearings, training workshops, and other community events.

Followers of the page should also expect to see the timely publication of public service announcements such as press releases, event announcements, bid announcements, weather updates, and job vacancy announcements, among others.

Followers will be able to interact with page posts and send messages directly to the Public Information Office staff. Messages typically receive a response within 24 hours.

Public Information Office staff are currently working diligently to transfer all files from the old Facebook page—""Tinian Mayor's Office" —to the new page. This should not, however, disrupt the timeliness of new posts. ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

JKPL closed today

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library will be closed today, Aug. 29, for inventory and will resume normal hours on Wednesday, Sept. 6, 2017.

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library will be closed for Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 4, 2017, and Tuesday, Sept. 5, 2017. We will resume regular library hours of operation on Wednesday, Sept. 6, 2017.

For the latest library news and events, please visit our website www.cnmilib.org or like/visit joeten kiyu on Facebook. The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library regular hours of operation are as follows: Tuesday-Friday (10am to 6pm) and Saturday (9am to 4pm). It is closed on Sundays, Mondays, and holidays. ***(PR)***

Power outage today

There will be a power outage today, Aug. 29, 2017, from 9am to 12pm to allow Commonwealth Utilities Corp. line crew to relocate the main primary power pole and primary line along Isa Drive on Capital Hill. The relocation work is required to be performed for the proposed Cross Island Road Improvement Phase 3 Project. Areas to be affected include Haat Pl., Deloitte building, Mate Drive, Hafno Street, and Sagua Drive—all on Capital Hill. Because of the scale of work that will be performed, CUC asks travelers to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the affected areas. For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center at 664-4282. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Military training at Farallon de Medinilla

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following dates and times:

- Aug. 28, from 12:30pm to 9pm
- Aug. 29, from 8:30am to 5pm
- Aug. 30, from 6 am to 3pm

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be in a 12-nautical mile radius of the island. ***(PR)***

PH consular outreach in September

The Philippine Consulate General in Guam will be holding a mobile outreach on Saipan on Sept. 8 to Sept. 11 at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. It will accommodate 640 applicants who pre-registered for passport renewal.

If an individual wants to avail of one of the 640 slots available for the outreach program, they must call the office of Philippine honorary consul to the Commonwealth Glicerio Arago at 233-6293. The individual has to set up the renewal appointment with Mel Santos. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Class of 1987 gears up for 30-year reunion

The Marianas High School Class of 1987 will be having its 30th-year class reunion on Sept. 23. The reunion is open to any CNMI Class of 1987 graduate, regardless of which high school they graduated from. A Mass in honor of departed classmates will be held at the San Antonio Church on Sept. 23, 2017, at 4pm. The reunion will follow immediately after the Mass, from 5:30pm to 10pm, at the Surf Club (beach side) in Chalan Kanoa, the former Pacific Gardenia Sunset Bar and Grill. To purchase a reunion ticket or to get more information, send an email to cnmiclassof87@gmail.com or join the CNMI Class of '87 Facebook for updates on the reunion event and/or to request for ticket. ***(PR)***

Free cat adoption month

Saipan's animal welfare group, Saipan Cares for Animals, is hosting a free cat adoption month until the end of August. All cat and kitten adoptions are free until the end of the month on Aug. 31. Call Beth at 285-5448 or visit www.SaipanCaresforAnimals.com to find out more. ***(CSA)***

Ukulele class at public library

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library intermediate ukulele classes will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4pm to 5pm. Classes will begin on Tuesday, Aug. 22, 2017. It is open to children ages 8 years or older and adults. The total cost for eight class sessions is $50. For questions, call Celina Foreman at 235-7315 / 7322 during regular library hours. ***(PR)***

EOC warns vs sailing in small craft

Based on information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, fresh to strong monsoonal southwest winds generated by a developing tropical disturbance near Agrihan at the northern CNMI will create hazardous conditions for small craft operation across Marianas waters through early Wednesday morning.

A small craft advisory remains in effect for Saipan and Tinian waters until 4am Wednesday.

Southwesterly winds of 15 to 20 knots with frequent gusts of up to 30 knots will persist through early Wednesday morning.

A small craft advisory is now in effect on Rota waters until 4am Wednesday. Southwesterly winds of 15 to 25 knots are expected through early Wednesday morning.

The public, especially inexperienced mariners and those operating smaller vessels, should avoid sailing in these conditions. If sailing cannot be avoided, be cautious near inlets and reefs. ***(EOC)***

Guam base to hold memorial service

SANTA RITA, Guam—U.S. Naval Base Guam will hold a memorial service for USS *John S. McCain* on Aug. 30, at noon, at the base chapel.

USS *John S. McCain* was involved in a collision with the merchant vessel *Alnic* MC in waters east of the Straits of Malacca and Singapore on Aug. 21.

The memorial will be held to remember and pay tribute to the 10 sailors who died as a result of the collision:

- Electronics Technician 1st Class Charles Nathan Findley, 31, from Amazonia, Missouri
- Interior Communications Electrician 1st Class Abraham Lopez, 39, from El Paso, Texas
- Electronics Technician 2nd Class Kevin Sayer Bushell, 26, from Gaithersburg, Maryland
- Electronics Technician 2nd Class Jacob Daniel Drake, 21, from Cable, Ohio
- Information Systems Technician 2nd Class Timothy Thomas Eckels Jr., 23, from Manchester, Maryland
- Information Systems Technician 2nd Class Corey George Ingram, 28, from Poughkeepsie, New York
- Electronics Technician 3rd Class Dustin Louis Doyon, 26, from Suffield, Connecticut
- Electronics Technician 3rd Class John Henry Hoagland III, 20, from Killeen, Texas
- Interior Communications Electrician 3rd Class Logan Stephen Palmer, 23, from Decatur, Illinois
- Electronics Technician 3rd Class, Kenneth Aaron Smith, 22, of Cherry Hill, New Jersey

The memorial is open to those who have base access. ***(PR)***

RENOVATED COURT
Government officials, sponsors, and community members pose for a picture at the newly renovated Koblerville basketball court during the court's grand unveiling yesterday. KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Study measures impact of informational material at NAP office

As part of ongoing efforts to improve children's health and nutrition in the CNMI, four Northern Marianas College students were selected to be a part of a summer fellowship program that sought to better understand the various aspects of health and nutrition in the CNMI and to find better ways to promote healthy lifestyles.

The Child Health Assessment in the Pacific Undergraduate Summer Fellowship Program, which is funded by a U.S. Department of Agriculture grant, provides a summer training and research opportunity for undergraduate students—known as fellows—working toward degrees in nutrition, nursing, early childhood education, public health and other related degrees.

NMC graduate and CHAP fellow Maria Dizon's project focused on evaluating the influence of an informational display table and printed materials on the CNMI Nutrition Assistance Program clients' intentions to select, purchase, prepare and consume healthier foods.

Dizon's research involved evaluating an Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program informational display table at the NAP issuance office, which displayed the amount of fat and sugar in popular canned foods and sugar sweetened beverages along with informational tip sheets, brochures and recipe cards. During food stamp issuance days at NAP, Dizon measured participants' observation of the display table using an environmental scan form and conducted interviews using an exit survey questionnaire to determine participants' intentions to purchase, prepare and consume healthier foods.

Northern Marianas College student Maria Dizon, right, is joined by her mentor Rose Castro, nutrition educator assistant and extension aide, after presenting her research on child nutrition and the impact of nutrition information and food demonstrations. NMC

Data gathered were analyzed using Excel and reported in frequency and percentages. "Based on research findings, the EFNEP display table and printed materials made a difference, as NAP participants reported that they were more likely to purchase fruit, vegetables, and consume healthier foods," said Dizon.

Other CHAP fellows are NMC students Jesse Deleon Guerrero, Andrea Loste, and Allysha Lloren. Their research will also be highlighted throughout the week.

The objectives of the CHAP Summer Fellowship Program, one of the training components of the Children's Healthy Living Program, are threefold: building Pacific regional capacity in early childhood nutrition and health assessment; developing and sustaining the Pacific network of individuals working to monitor and prevent early childhood obesity and health disparities; and working to develop training in early childhood nutrition and health assessment.

"We are proud of the research that the CHAP fellows have completed with the guidance from their mentors," said NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez.

According to CNMI CHAP lead Patricia Coleman, "Becoming a CHAP fellow is a competitive process. This is CHAP's second year, and once again, NMC had many excellent applicants for the fellowship."

Students from Chaminade University, University of Hawaii at Manoa, and the University of Guam also participated in the CHAP program.

Previous fellows include Robert Suzuki Jr., and Rachel Reyes.

Suzuki, Jr., is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree at UH Manoa. Reyes just graduated from NMC in spring 2017 with her bachelor's degree in Education.

The fellows are mentored by Jessica Delos Reyes (Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. renal dietitian) and NMC Cooperative, Research, Extension, and Education Service team members Rose Castro, Tayna Belyeu-Camacho, and Patricia Coleman.

All CHAP summer fellows receive $2100 stipend, travel to Hawaii for a seven-day training opportunity at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa, a scholarship to cover tuition and fees for four credits of coursework through the University of Hawa'i Outreach College, and resources and support to complete a mentored summer field experience related to diet or anthropometry field assessment techniques. The CNMI CHAP Program is housed at Northern Marianas College Cooperative, Research, Extension, and Education Service. ***(NMC)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Statewide Independent Living Council
"Yes I Can!"
P.O. Box 501521, SAIPAN, MP 96950 • Tel: (670) 322-6537/8 • Fax: (670) 322-6548
TTY: (670) 322-6449 • E-Mail: nmidir@ovrgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the public is advised that the Statewide Independent Living Council will hold its FY 2017 Third General Membership Meeting on Thursday, August 31, 2017 at PIC-Annex Room from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

I. Call to Order
II. Roll Call
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda of August 31, 2017
IV. Review and Adoption of FY 2017 Second General Membership Meeting Minutes of July 20, 2017
V. Reports
- **a.** Statewide Independent Living Council Chairperson
- **b.** Center for Living Independently Executive Director
- **b.** Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Director

VI. Old Business
- **a.** National Conference on Independent Living
- **b.** Wheelchair Clinic Update
- **c.** Pre-Employment Transition Services Conference

VII. New Business
- **a.** Partnerships for Innovation, Inclusion and Independence (P3I)
- **b.** Review of Membership Listing

VIII. Announcement/Miscellaneous
- **A.** Request for Proposal for Independent Living Services Update

IX. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodation such as large print or sign language interpreter are asked to call Ms. Elvira Seman (OVR Administrative Assistant) at 322-6537/38 (voice) or 322-6449 (TTY) two days before the meeting for necessary arrangements.

/s/ **Emeterio Fitial**
SILC Chairperson

Publication of this notice is paid for by Federal funds made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Administration for Community Living (ACL).

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd floor-Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW-17-IFB-025

PROPOSED MAYOR'S OFFICE PERIMETER FENCE, ROTA

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the **Proposed Mayor's Office Perimeter Fence, ROTA** Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **August 15, 2017** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars ($100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Teasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect."

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITUES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **August 31, 2017**, 10:00 a.m. local time at **Rota Mayor Office, Rota.** The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **September 8, 2017** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division,** 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) Calendar days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW-17-IFB-025"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time September 13, 2017. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, September 13, 2017,** and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **September 13, 2017** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **September 22, 2017.** Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. local time, September 27, 2017.** However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:30 a.m. local time, on September 13, 2017.**

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **§70-30.3-245.** The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Gov't Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **One Hundred Eighty (180) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **Three Hundred (US$300.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

JAMES A. ADA
Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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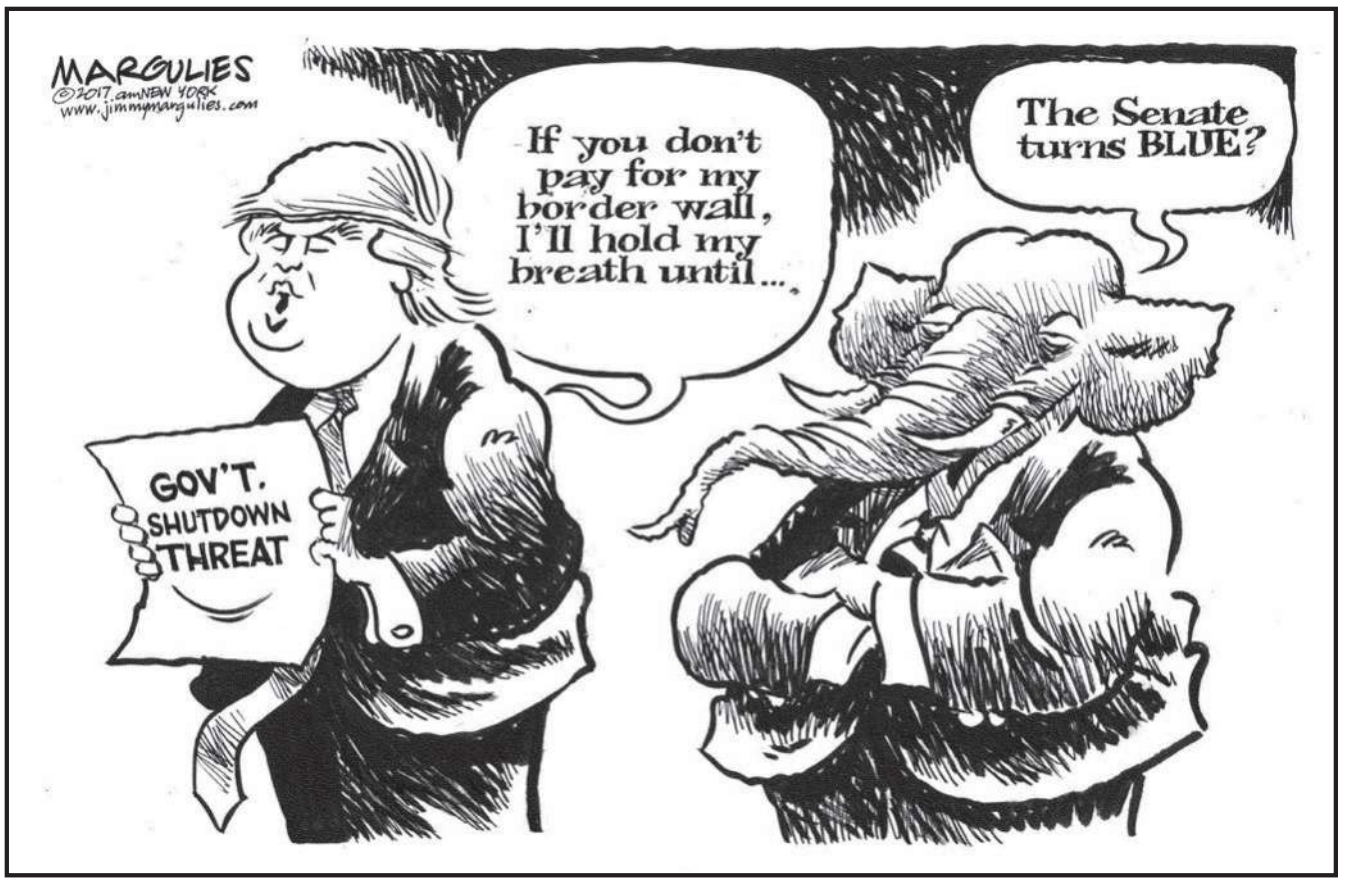
Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association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The Senate turns BLUE?
GOV'T. SHUTDOWN THREAT

EDITORIAL

The price of protection: Secret Service's budget depletion raises questions

The news that the Secret Service's budget for the year has already been exhausted covering the protection of the Trump family, a large group who travel a lot, raises some issues.

The first question is not an issue. The president's family must be protected, particularly out in the open in a heavily armed country and dangerous world. Television footage of people with "open carry" firearms at the demonstration in Charlottesville, Va., is just one recent example. America has more than its quota of troubled people with guns.

At the same time, the overall picture becomes muddled when figures in the government who might just want Secret Service protection for the prestige _ the black vehicles and the communications gear in the ears of the people surrounding them _ get protection. A second tangled situation is when members of the president's family get expensive protection when they are traveling on profitable, personal or family business.

Some observers have criticized Mr. Trump for his multiple residences _ his penthouse in New York City, his golf club in New Jersey, his resort in Florida _ in addition to Camp David and the White House, for what his peripatetic lifestyle costs the taxpayer, but there is little new about that. Every president in recent years has moved around. There is no question that America should ever risk another assassination.

We have lost four presidents _ Abraham Lincoln, James Garfield, William McKinley and John F. Kennedy. That is a real "never again."

At the same time, cost-conscious Americans might ask some questions. One of these is whether there is any thought that the federal government might be reimbursed for Secret Service protection when some beneficiary is traveling on personal or company business. Second, might some Secret Service protection provided to nonpresidential figures or family be provided only when a threat has been identified?

In the short run, the money to pay for continued Secret Service protection to those who need it will simply have to be found.

(c)2017 *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*

Trump sheds supporters like no other president in modern history

By DOYLE MCMANUS
Los Angeles Times

Doyle McManus is a columnist for The Los Angeles Times. *Readers may send him email at doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com*

President Donald Trump's poll numbers are bad and getting worse. He began his presidency on shaky ground; on Inauguration Day, only about 45 percent of Americans said they approved of the job he was doing. Since then, it's been a bumpy ride downhill. Last week, the Gallup Poll reported that Trump's job approval had sagged to a low of 34 percent.

Other surveys' findings are slightly less dire, but all show the same downward trend. No president has fallen so low in public esteem so early in his tenure in the history of modern polling.

Those aren't the only daunting numbers Trump has had to contemplate. (He claims he ignores the polls, but often betrays his denials with complaints about specific surveys.) The president's disapproval rating, the share of Americans who think he's doing a bad job, rose above 50 percent faster than any of his predecessors'.

He has created, almost single-handed, an unusually passionate opposition: One poll found that almost twice as many voters "strongly disapproved" of his job performance as said they "strongly approved."

And while Trump claims that his base of support remains impregnable, that's proven to be a myth.

"The Trump base is far bigger & stronger than ever before," the president claimed on Twitter this month.

But his own campaign pollster, Tony Fabrizio, reported numbers last week that show his base eroding. Trump's support among Republicans and Republican-leaning independents, while still strong at 75 percent, has declined from earlier highs, Fabrizio said. (Even Trump can't dismiss that one as a fake poll.)

It's true that most of Trump's most fervent supporters are still committed to him. But his less fervent supporters—let's call them "soft Trump voters"—are drifting away.

The data site FiveThirtyEight has been polling thousands of voters who supported Trump on Election Day, and has classified about 15 percent of them as "reluctant Trump voters"—people who went for Trump but said they were "not excited" about their vote. These reluctant Trump voters tend to be better-educated than the president's hard-core supporters. They're often independents or even Democrats, not committed Republicans.

This month, only 63 percent of them said they approved of the job Trump was doing as president. (Remember, they all voted for him in November.) When asked if they would vote for Trump a second time, only 48 percent said yes, and only 12 percent said "definitely yes." That's not a reliable prediction of what they'll do in 2020 if Trump runs for re-election, but it's a pretty clear sign of buyer's remorse.

In another analysis, Ronald Brownstein of the Atlantic obtained detailed data from Gallup for Wisconsin, one of the states that put Trump over the top last year. He found that Trump's backing among college-educated white voters had dropped to about 40 percent. Even more striking, he found that the president's support among white voters without a college education—the working-class nucleus of his base—had sunk from 62 percent to 51 percent, about the same level of support they gave Mitt Romney when he lost in 2012. The drop-off was especially dramatic among women, Brownstein found.

Why are so many Trump voters edging away?

Pollsters who have conducted detailed interviews and focus groups say the most important factor may be that many have been disappointed by Trump's failure to deliver on some of his biggest promises: new manufacturing jobs, a middle-class tax cut and lower health care costs.

Congress' failure to repeal or replace the Affordable Care Act is a case in point. Soft Trump voters, including women, ranked health care as a high priority—higher than hard Trump voters, who cared more about immigration and terrorism. So Trump's rage at the Republican-led Senate for its inability to pass a bill is not misplaced; the legislative debacle cost him support among the voters who helped him win.

The president's decline in the polls isn't irreversible. Bill Clinton suffered similar (if less acute) setbacks in his first year, but went on to win reelection easily.

"The key questions are: How many jobs are being created? And are wages going up? If those two things happen, his numbers are going to improve," the Republican pollster David Winston told me. "He needs one big legislative outcome, like tax reform, to show that he has pushed things forward."

Maybe. But that makes Trump's decision to launch attacks on the leaders of his own party in Congress look counterproductive. A president with an approval rating below 40 percent, and a base that's fraying, may find that he needs McConnell and House Speaker Paul D. Ryan as much as they need him. Many of those Republican senators are already running away from the president, calculating that they won't need his help to win re-election.

Politics is about addition, not subtraction, an ancient campaign adage holds. Trump's own polls show that he hasn't learned that lesson. Or, at least, hasn't learned how to put it into practice.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

First real job a lesson in who you are

By GINA BARRECA
The Hartford Courant

Gina Barreca is an English professor at the University of Connecticut, a feminist scholar who has written eight books, and a columnist for the Hartford Courant. *She can be reached through her website at http://www.ginabarreca.com.*

How did you get your first real job? When I say "real job" I mean the job that gives you more than a paycheck: I'm talking about the first work that's became part of your life's central story.

I'm not talking about a high-paying job or one with a prestigious title; unless you took over the family business, that's unlikely. And I'm not talking about discovering your vocation, learning to express the artistry within yourself or working with your whole heart and soul, either.

I'm interested in the job that taught you about who you are as a working person.

My husband's first real job, for example, was one he got in high school and kept through his four years as an undergraduate. He worked in an ice-cream parlor. He became an English professor, author and editor, but he says he learned how to work hard at Bischoff's in Teaneck, N.J.

My brother, now an attorney with an MBA who is writing a doctoral dissertation, once drove a taxi. Here's his story about how he got his first real job: "I was looking under 'Comparative Literature' in The New York Times' want ads and found a listing for 'Cab Driver.' It was the closest thing."

My friend, editor and author Hara Marano, started out in publishing after college. Her real break, however, came through a friend in the music industry to whom an aspiring singer said, "You have to listen to my demo record. I just quit my day job as a copy editor." Hara's friend tipped her off to the possibly open editing job and she applied. The publication asked Hara to work temporarily but she wasn't there more than an hour when she caught an error everyone else had missed. She was hired on the spot.

I worked as a playground counselor (the asphalt version of being a camp counselor). I also worked in bookstores, in department stores and tutored in my college's writing center.

Having always been hard working, I nevertheless graduated with no idea what I'd do for a living.

So I wrote letters with "personal" written across the envelope to the heads of radio and television stations. One of those letters got me an interview, which led to a job simply because the head of a major station wanted to meet the girl who had the chutzpah to write to him directly.

I worked there for eight months then started teaching writing, in the evenings after work, as a replacement adjunct (the most tentative of positions) at Queens College.

And I fell in love with teaching. I backed into my doctorate the way you might back into a parking space. Once in the program, I fell in love with research and writing as well.

I got lucky.

As of this semester, I'll have been at the same job at the same place for 30 years. My students, current and former, can't believe such a thing is possible. For them, it's unlikely, but I would have found the story impossible to believe when I was their age, too.

My students have been asking to hear these stories because the topic of finding, switching and quitting jobs inevitably comes up as we slide toward the end of summer. September's approach makes some people feel they're ready to start over—and get it right this time.

The very whiff of a new school year still prompts life-questioning and impulsive career-based decision making. While New Year's Eve might force people to makes lists of resolutions, shorter afternoons and longer, cooler evenings make many people want to buy new notebooks and fresh writing supplies.

Folks of all ages long to flip to a new clean page, and begin a sentence with "Today I started ... " even if they're now writing that sentence on a new laptop instead of in a composition notebook.

Blank pieces of paper and blank screens are thrilling because they are invitations to begin; they are simultaneously unnerving because they remind us that if we don't begin, the rest will remain blank.

The same feeling can attach itself to searching for new jobs: What else is out there, the searcher wonders.

What new story can I begin today?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the usher at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Cathedral

I write this letter to inform fellow parishioners of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Cathedral about my family's experience on Sunday, Aug. 27, 2017, and to explain why I am now a former member because of the hateful note given to me by you, a representative of the church. I've included your note below with a few grammatical corrections for clarity:

"I'm appalled that you would bring your children's toys and allow them to eat in the house of worship. It was distracting to watch the display of toy cars and distracting to the rest of the parishoners [sic], who cannot sit on [sic] that particular area where cars are at but [sic, wrong usage] diverts our attention to it. Maybe you haven't thought about this [,] but I felt you needed to know. It's unfair to me and probably others to watch what was going on with your family. What happened to coming to God's house to pray and commit to the faithful that they too want the same thing? [sic] No food, NO [for emphasis] toys [,] [n]o distractions? [sic] "

If you recall, the homily on Sunday was about *everyone* being welcomed into the house of God: "all are welcome." Apparently, this invitation was not extended to my family of four. I'm deeply saddened, distraught, and disappointed you, while representing *our* church, would judge us in this way. Please, consult Mathew 7:1~5: "Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you..." (NIV). I will not judge you, only God should. I ask you kindly to do the same concerning me and my family.

We bring our "distractions"—children—to church in hopes to hear the Word; we give them toys and snacks to keep them quiet so they do not scream, whine, yell, or cry during service; we apologize for their "disturbance" and will no longer attend Mass at Chalan Kanoa. It is my belief that the Catholic Church is about acceptance, tolerance, love to all; I did not feel any of those things in your note. I can appreciate and respect your opinion but not how it was delivered. With prayer and reflection, we hope you address similar families with young children differently.

Adam Walsh
San Vicente, Saipan

It's the people's bill now!

Editor's Note: This letter is being published in two parts due to its length.

First of a two-part letter

It looks like my gut feelings of apprehension and interpretation were indeed legitimate, which is why I wrote the letter about the Senate's character being tested on the marijuana bill (SB 20-62). I already knew that Sen. Sixto and I were in disagreement on some things in the bill, which had me skeptical about how it would play out. I had even stopped trying to convince the senator and withdrew my concerns so the bill could be filed. I did tell the senator that I would take my concerns about the bill to the Senate committee which I know should be part of the process before any new bill, especially an initiative, is presented to the floor for a vote. Little did I know the senator tried to do an end run around me and even tried to get the rest of the Senate to buy into his plan, which I viewed as pure political skullduggery. The bill, once filed, actually belongs to the people whom all senators have pledged to represent; it's not Sixto's bill anymore.

Sen. Sixto is actually trying to get the Senate to pass his new bill without it going to any committee and telling me that I "can take my concerns to the House of Representatives" in an attempt to prevent me from influencing the bill in the Senate. How can any senator present an initiative that will go to the people for a vote but won't allow the bill to be vetted by a committee and no public hearings before the bill goes to the floor? I know the senator is playing an ugly game but the sad part is he is trying to pull other senators into his skullduggery plan to just highjack the bill so I can't make any arguments as to why it needs to be changed. I was first told the bill was going to the Health & Welfare Committee but, when I checked with the chairwoman, she told me it was with the Judiciary Government & Law Committee. But when I checked with the Legislative Bureau, I was told the bill had been taken back by Sen. Sixto to make some changes in regards to importing and exporting and that the bill was scheduled for its final reading and vote on the 31st of this month. Every voter and every senator should be asking—why is this new bill being rushed through the Senate and why is Sixto so afraid of Ambrose?

I am sure that most people with common sense can see that what the senator is trying to do is wrong! How can a new initiative of this magnitude be sent to the floor for a vote with a shadow of doubt about its quality, correctness, and under the controversial complaint of the very person who wrote more of the bill than Sen. Sixto. This is an entirely new initiative that the senator is trying to pass without any public hearing and without anyone even being allowed to comment on the bill. Passing the buck to the House of Representatives just to avoid me being able to comment on the bill and argue for changes is ugly. Worse, it is unethical and unbecoming of a person who holds the title of senator.

I am humbly and respectfully asking Senate President Arnold Palacios and Senate Vice President Steve Mesngon to please put an end to this skullduggery plan of Sen. Sixto who continues to refuse to even return my calls or give me a chance to meet with him and senators. The bill is flawed and the Senate should have learned from the rush job with the casino that bills of this magnitude deserve all scrutiny possible. It is also telling of the wrongdoing to rush the bill when we still have almost a year-and-a-half before the bill will even be voted on. So why the rush, why put it on the House of Representatives and why put me off, as the truth is clearly in the details that Sen. Sixto is scheming to avoid me.

I hope other senators and voters can now see why I was so adamant that Sixto was not going to do right by the people he serves on this bill just to avoid me. Honor and character just flew out the window because Sixto can't defend the bill that Gerry Hemsly wants, not what the people want. I have no problem with senators and the people vetting the changes I am recommending as I know they will stand on their own merits.

To be continued

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY
Breezy. Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southwest winds 20 to 25 mph. Highs around 88.
▲88° ▼77°

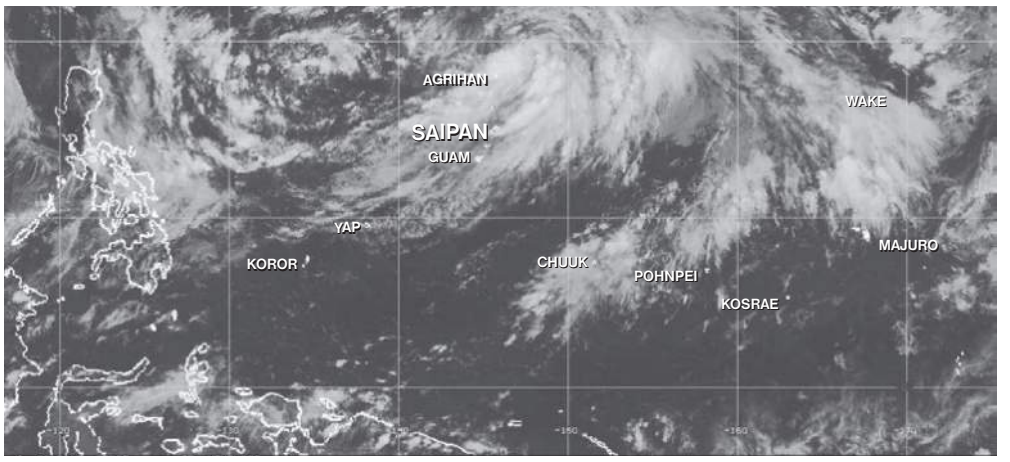
WEDNESDAY
Breezy. Partly cloudy. Isolated showers. Southwest winds 20 to 25 mph.
▲88° ▼77°

THURSDAY
Mostly sunny with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼78°

FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼79°

SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 12:08 PM, MONDAY, AUGUST 28, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Main forecast problem is the slowly developing circulation in the far northern Marianas. It is beginning to move away, however the competing influence will be how fast it is developing. Based on model data a small craft advisory was issued last night for winds for Tinian and Saipan waters. Based on a 19Z ob from Saipan with a peak wind report, it is in fine shape so kept it going. The main wrinkle is that the VAD wind profile now shows 33 to 36 knot winds at 2000 feet. This could require the small craft advisory to be extended in area to include Guam and Rota. Will refrain from doing that unless it is truly necessary. Latest model runs show the winds could continue into Thursday. will let that ride until tomorrow though. The advisory can always be extended then if that still looks good. Lastly, the clouds could continue through most of the forecast period, while in the current forecast it clears out around Tuesday night. Overall though weather will improve as the circulation continues to move away, with little in the way of potentially dangerous impacts. Did issue an urban and small stream flood advisory due to the combination of antecedent rainfall yesterday and some training echoes in southern Guam early this morning. That advisory has since expired and has not yet shown a need to be re-issued.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	88° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	87° / 76°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	87° / 76°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	87° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Rain	61° / 50°
Beijing	Sunny	81° / 61°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	91° / 81°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	88° / 76°
London	Sunny	77° / 54°
Los Angeles	Sunny	101° / 77°
Manila	Thunderstorms	90° / 79°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	57° / 36°
Miami	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°
New York	Cloudy	74° / 64°
Osaka	Showers	91° / 79°
Paris	Showers	73° / 57°
Busan	Showers	84° / 72°
Rome	Sunny	95° / 70°
Salem	Cloudy	89° / 71°
San Francisco	Sunny	69° / 56°
Seoul	Cloudy	72° / 61°
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	88° / 75°
Washington, DC	Showers	74° / 66°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
12:04 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.68
7:23 AM	LOW TIDE	0.37
1:58 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.44
7:21 PM	LOW TIDE	1.02

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:04 AM	6:31 PM
Wednesday	6:04 AM	6:30 PM
Thursday	6:04 AM	6:30 PM
Friday	6:04 AM	6:29 PM
Saturday	6:04 AM	6:28 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	12:13 AM	11:58 PM	-
Wednesday	1:02 PM	-	-
Thursday	-	12:43 AM	1:15 PM
Friday	-	1:29 AM	2:40 PM
Saturday	-	2:18 AM	3:27 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 21, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	1:35am	5:20am	2, 3, 4
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
TW308	2:35am	6:20am	6, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	4:45am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily
ZE582	4:45pm	8:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:20am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:00am	10:25am	1
JD396	4:50pm	8:15pm	4

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:15pm	7:00pm	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:00am	1, 2, 4, 6via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	3, 5, 7 via GUM
PR1572	4:40am	6:45am	1, 4
UA6391/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	10:40pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	10:40pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	4:40am	8:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA6391/159	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
ZE583	10:05am	3:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7
ZE581	10:10am	3:55pm	Daily
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1, 2, 3
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
TW307	8:05pm	1:35am+1	5, 6
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
LJ651	10:00pm	3:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:10am	3:30pm	4
JD395	10:05pm	5:30am+1	7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:20am	2:50pm	Daily

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR1571	9:20pm	3:40am+1	3, 7
UA192/6395	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
PR110/UA6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA184/6395	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UO424:50pm	12:05am+1		2, 6
HX076	5:20pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:05pm	1:10am+1	1
UO42	6:10pm	1:00am+1	3
UO42	6:10pm	1:10am+1	4
UO42	6:40pm	2:00am+1	7
UA116/6395	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

Harvey could have deep impact on Texas oil, US economy

By MARCY GORDON
AP BUSINESS WRITER

Massive flooding caused by Tropical Storm Harvey along Texas' refinery-rich coast could have long-standing and far-reaching consequences for the state's oil and gas industry and the larger U.S. economy. The storm's remnants left much of Houston underwater on Sunday, and the National Weather Service says it's not over yet: Some parts of Houston and its suburbs could end up with as much as 50 inches (1.3 meters) of rain.

AP

A Valero oil refinery's flare continues to burn as Hurricane Harvey makes landfall in Corpus Christi, Texas, on Friday, Aug. 25, 2017.

With the heavy precipitation expected to last for days, it's still unclear how bad the damage will be, but there is already evidence of widespread losses. Key oil and gas facilities along the Texas Gulf Coast have temporarily shut down, and flooding in the Houston and Beaumont areas could seriously pinch gasoline supplies. Companies operating in the Gulf of Mexico have evacuated drilling platforms and rigs, crimping the flow of oil and gas.

Experts believe gasoline prices could increase as much as 25 cents a gallon.

Harvey's toll on air travel in the U.S. is set to extend into Monday, with the tracking service FlightAware.com reporting that more than 1,400 flights already have been canceled. That's in addition to more than 2,000 canceled over the weekend.

Economy watchers were looking to oil futures markets Sunday night and stock trading in the U.S. Monday morning for further indications of fallout.

Here's what was known as of Sunday night:

REFINERIES

Nearly a third of U.S. refining capacity sits in low-lying areas along the coast from Corpus Christi, Texas, to Lake Charles, Louisiana. Beyond the shutdown of refineries at risk of a direct strike from high winds, there's the threat of flooding and potential power outages for gasoline supplies.

Refinery outages continued to spread Sunday, with about 2.2 million barrels per day of refining capacity down or being brought down, according to analysts at S&P Global.

Valero Energy Corp., whose two big Corpus Christi refineries escaped damage, said it was working with federal and Texas agencies and its business partners to determine what infrastructure was needed to resume refinery operations.

Even before Harvey hit, the prospect of supply disruptions sent gasoline futures to $1.74 a gallon, their highest level since April, before they retreated to around $1.67 by Friday afternoon. At the pump, experts see gasoline increasing 10 cents to 25 cents a gallon.

Given the strictures faced by the refineries, "This is the dominoes starting to fall," Patrick DeHaan, senior petroleum analyst for Gas Buddy, said Sunday. "This is sort of slowly turning out to be the worst-case scenario."

OIL AND GAS

Companies have evacuated workers from oil platforms in the Gulf of Mexico. The U.S. Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement said Sunday that workers had been removed from 105 of the 737 manned platforms used to pump oil and gas from beneath the Gulf.

The agency estimated that platforms accounting for about 22 percent of oil production and 26 percent of natural gas output in the Gulf had been shut down.

"After the storm has passed, facilities will be inspected," the agency said in a news release. "Once all standard checks have been completed, production from undamaged facilities will be brought back on line immediately. Facilities sustaining damage may take longer to bring back on line."

SHIPPING

The shipping industry also is expected to be disrupted by the worst hurricane to hit the Texas coast in more than 50 years. Shipping terminals along the Texas coast shut down as the storm approached. Port operations in Corpus Christi and Galveston closed, and the port of Houston said container terminals and general cargo facilities closed around midday Friday.

Rates increased for carrying freight between the Gulf and the U.S. East Coast.

Tips for making a mid-life career change

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of "Secrets to Winning at Office Politics." Send in questions and get free coaching tips at http://www.yourofficecoach.com, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.

Q: I am feeling somewhat uneasy about my upcoming career transition. In about six months, I plan to take early retirement and enter a completely new profession. After 30 years as a civilian engineer with the military, I recently became certified as a pharmacy technician and hope to find employment in that field.

During my career, I have managed million-dollar budgets, overseen award-winning programs and supervised up to 15 employees. But since none of this relates to being a pharmacy tech, I'm not sure how to demonstrate my worth to prospective employers.

To get my foot in the door, I have considered offering to fill in for absent employees during weekends, holidays and vacations. What are your thoughts about making this transition successful?

A: While your two career choices are indeed quite different, they require many of the same attributes, such as organizational ability, attention to detail and mastery of technical knowledge. So you should be ready with examples that illustrate your transferable skills. With many employers, your experience with the military will also be a plus.

On the other hand, interviewers will be understandably worried about your ability to adjust to a lower-level role. To ease their minds, be prepared to explain exactly what led you to choose this field and why you are excited about the change. Fortunately, your retirement income should alleviate any concerns about the inevitable pay cut.

If finding a full-time position proves difficult, taking temporary assignments is an excellent strategy. In addition to adding "real world" experience to your resume, you will also be able to develop valuable relationships. These professional contacts can provide helpful references, suggest networking opportunities and possibly even hire you.

As you begin this journey, remember that starting over in mid-life can be a tough emotional transition. After years of being valued for your knowledge and experience, becoming a newbie may seem both unfamiliar and unpleasant. But once you get through the initial learning curve, you should begin to feel much more comfortable.

Q: I'm trying to decide whether to give my former colleague a recommendation. "Heather" and I were coworkers for six months before she left to sell real estate. Because I think Heather is a terrific person, I had planned to write an online endorsement for her.

After thinking it over, however, I'm afraid that recommending a former employee might get me in trouble at work. Although I would like to help Heather succeed, I don't want to jeopardize my own career. What do you think I should do?

A: Unless Heather left on bad terms or works for a competitor, it's hard to see how praising her would get you in trouble. But if there actually could be serious consequences, you should err on the side of caution. After all, if Heather is good at her job, she will undoubtedly receive other endorsements.

Should you continue to be conflicted, the simple solution is to ask your boss whether a personal recommendation, with no mention of your company, is permissible. If the thought of asking makes you nervous, however, then you have answered your own question.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Trump says Canada, Mexico being 'very difficult' on NAFTA

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump is accusing Canada and Mexico of being "very difficult" at the negotiating table over the North American Free Trade Agreement, and threatening anew to terminate the deal. Trump tweeted on Sunday morning that NAFTA is the "worst trade deal ever made." Trump said at a rally last week in Phoenix that he would "end up probably terminating" NAFTA "at some point." The U.S., Mexico and Canada began formal negotiations earlier this month to rework the 23-year-old trade pact that Trump blames for hundreds of thousands of lost U.S. factory jobs.

AP sources: Expedia CEO Dara Khosrowshahi to lead Uber

DETROIT (AP)—Expedia CEO Dara Khosrowshahi has been named Uber's top executive, taking the difficult job of mending the dysfunctional ride-hailing giant and turning it from money-losing behemoth to a profitable company. Uber's fractured eight-member board voted to hire Khosrowshahi late Sunday, capping three days of meetings and the withdrawal of once-top candidate Jeffery Immelt, former CEO and still chairman of General Electric, two people briefed on the decision said. They didn't want to be identified because the decision had not been officially announced as of Sunday night. Khosrowshahi has been CEO of Expedia since August of 2015. The online booking site is one of the largest travel agencies in the world.He will replace ousted CEO Travis Kalanick and faces the difficult task of changing Uber's culture that has included sexual harassment and allegations of deceit and corporate espionage. Uber also is losing millions every quarter as it continues to expand and invest in self-driving cars.

Nation

Rescuers pluck hundreds from rising floodwaters in Houston

HOUSTON (AP)—Tropical Storm Harvey sent devastating floods pouring into the nation's fourth-largest city Sunday as rising water chased thousands of people to rooftops or higher ground and overwhelmed rescuers who could not keep up with the constant calls for help.

The incessant rain covered much of Houston in turbid, gray-green water and turned streets into rivers navigable only by boat. In a rescue effort that recalled the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, helicopters landed near flooded freeways, airboats buzzed across submerged neighborhoods and high-water vehicles plowed through water-logged intersections. Some people managed with kayaks or canoes or swam.

AP

Residents are rescued from their homes surrounded by floodwaters from Tropical Storm Harvey on Sunday, Aug. 27, 2017, in Houston, Texas.

Volunteers joined emergency teams to pull people from their homes or from the water, which was high enough in places to gush into second floors. The flooding was so widespread that authorities had trouble pinpointing the worst areas. They urged people to get on top of their houses to avoid becoming trapped in attics and to wave sheets or towels to draw attention to their location.

Judging from federal disaster declarations, the storm has so far affected about a quarter of the Texas population, or 6.8 million people in 18 counties. It was blamed for at least two deaths.

As the water rose, the National Weather Service issued another ominous forecast: Before the storm that arrived Friday as a Category 4 hurricane is gone, some parts of Houston and its suburbs could get as much as 50 inches (1.3 meters) of rain. That would be the highest amount ever recorded in Texas.

Some areas have already received about half that amount. Since Thursday, South Houston recorded nearly 25 inches (63 centimeters), and the suburbs of Santa Fe and Dayton got 27 inches (69 centimeters).

"The breadth and intensity of this rainfall is beyond anything experienced before," the National Weather Service said in a statement.

Average rainfall totals will end up around 40 inches (1 meter) for Houston, weather service meteorologist Patrick Burke said.

The director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Brock Long, predicted that the aftermath of the storm would require FEMA's involvement for years.

"This disaster's going to be a landmark event," Long said.

Rescuers had to give top priority to life-and-death situations, leaving many affected families to fend for themselves. And several hospitals in the Houston area were evacuated due to the rising waters.

Tom Bartlett and Steven Craig pulled a rowboat on a rope through chest-deep water for a mile to rescue Bartlett's mother from her home in west Houston. It took them 45 minutes to reach the house. Inside, the water was halfway up the walls.

Marie Bartlett, 88, waited in her bedroom upstairs.

"When I was younger, I used to wish I had a daughter, but I have the best son in the world," she said. "In my 40 years here, I've never seen the water this high."

It was not clear how many people were plucked from the floodwaters. Up to 1,200 people had to be rescued in Galveston County alone, said Mark Henry, the county judge, the county's top administrative post.

Houston's George R. Brown Convention Center was quickly opened as a shelter. It was also used as a shelter for Katrina refugees in 2005.

Gillis Leho arrived there soaking wet. She said she awoke Sunday to find her downstairs flooded. She tried to move some belongings upstairs, then grabbed her grandchildren.

"When they told us the current was getting high, we had to bust a window to get out," Leho said.

William Cain sought shelter after water started coming inside his family's apartment and they lost power. "I live in a lake where there was once dry land," he said.

Some people used inflatable beach toys, rubber rafts and even air mattresses to get through the water to safety. Others waded while carrying trash bags stuffed with their belongings and small animals in picnic coolers.

Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner said authorities had received more than 2,000 calls for help, with more coming in. He urged drivers to stay off roads to avoid adding to the number of those stranded.

"I don't need to tell anyone this is a very, very serious and unprecedented storm," Turner told a news conference. "We have several hundred structural flooding reports. We expect that number to rise pretty dramatically."

Trump expected to decide soon on fate of young immigrants

WASHINGTON (AP)—After months of delays, President Donald Trump is expected to decide soon on the fate of young immigrants who were brought into the country illegally as children as he faces a looming court deadline and is digging in on appeals to his base.

Advocates on both sides of the issue are bracing for the possibility that Trump will halt the issuance of new work permits under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, program, a move that would effectively phase out a program that gave hundreds of thousands of young people a reprieve from deportation and the ability to work legally in the U.S.

The Trump administration faces a Sept. 5 deadline from a group of Republican state lawmakers hoping to force the president's hand. The White House, however, insisted Sunday that it had no announcement on an issue the president has openly wrestled with for months.

The deliberations come as Trump has been under fire for his response to a white supremacists' protest in Charlottesville, Virginia. Trump further fanned the flames of racial tension Friday when he pardoned Joe Arpaio, the former sheriff of Arizona's Maricopa County, who had been found guilty of defying a judge's order to stop racially profiling Latinos. The decision drew fury from Democrats and opposition from some Republicans, but was hailed by Trump's most fervent base.

Trump has wavered back and forth on his plans for DACA, which he slammed during his campaign as "illegal amnesty." Since taking office, however, Trump has softened his stance on the issue, at one point telling The Associated Press that the affected young immigrants could "rest easy."

His administration, Trump said back in April, was "not after the dreamers, we are after the criminals." All the while, the Department of Homeland Security has continued to grant two-year, renewable DACA work permits, to the dismay of immigration hard-liners.

But now, Trump is under pressure to make a final call: His administration is facing a September 5 deadline set by a group of Republican state lawmakers, led by Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton. The group, which successfully halted an Obama-era program that would have protected certain parents living in the country illegally, threatened to take on DACA if the administration does not rescind the order and stop issuing work permits by their deadline.

Sale of Interior secretary's motor home raises $25K question

HELENA, Mont. (AP)—U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's dormant congressional campaign committee recently sold a 2004 motor home at a steep discount to an old friend in the Montana Legislature.

But a seemingly ordinary transaction between friends, when seen through the optics of stringent campaign finance laws, can raise a bevy of questions—especially when those friends are politically high-powered and well-connected.

Zinke

After learning about the transaction, campaign finance watchdogs are raising a $25,000 question: Why would Zinke's campaign committee sell the Kountry Star Freightliner for half the price of its apparent $50,000 market value?

It's a head-scratcher for Lawrence Noble, a senior director of the Campaign Legal Center, a nonpartisan group of election law experts. "If the asset is worth $50,000, and they sell it to somebody for $25,000. It's the equivalent of them giving $25,000 to that person," Noble said.

The Federal Election Commission prohibits political committees to sell assets, including campaign vehicles, below fair market value.

It's akin to a gift, Noble said. "The campaign cannot give a $25,000 gift to somebody," he said.

The treasurer of Zinke's congressional campaign referred questions about the sale to campaign directors, both of whom declined to comment. Heather Swift, communications director for the Interior Department who also served as Zinke's congressional and campaign spokeswoman, did not respond to requests for an interview.

The buyer, state Sen. Ed Buttrey, said the 37-foot (11-meter) recreational vehicle had engine problems and other damage, which would undercut its value. But he still felt he got a "nice deal."

Buttrey maintains there was nothing improper about the transaction. Yet he acknowledged it might prompt questions, especially because he says he's in the final vetting stages for a key post in Zinke's Interior Department.

"I know that wouldn't look good," Buttrey said. The sale was finalized months after Buttrey began spreading word that he was up for an appointment as an assistant interior secretary.

Whether the White House formally nominates Buttrey for the position remains an open question. The White House and Interior Department have declined to comment.

An aide to Montana Sen. Steve Daines, who sits on the committee that would hold a hearing on the nomination, said it was hard to say how much longer the vetting will take. Federal officials have been making the rounds, including visits to state agencies as part of their background checks.

Asia

Ongoing Myanmar clashes leave 96 dead, including 6 civilians

AP
A Rohingya woman cries after being stopped by Bangladeshi border guards at a makeshift shelter at Ghumdhum, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, Sunday, Aug.27, 2017.

BANGKOK (AP)—Myanmar's government and advocates for the country's Muslim Rohingya ethnic minority traded charges Sunday of killing civilians, burning down buildings and planting land mines, as clashes that began last week when insurgents launched attacks against police posts continued.

An announcement posted online by the office of the country's leader, State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi, said the death toll from the violence that started Thursday night had reached 96, mostly alleged Rohingya attackers but also 12 security personnel.

The announcement was the first by the government to list civilians among the dead—six people identified as Hindu said to have been killed by the insurgents.

Myanmar is overwhelmingly Buddhist, but about 1 million Muslim Rohingya live in the northern part of Rakhine, the western state where the violence is taking place.

Advocates for the Rohingya suggest many more civilians have died in army attacks on villages, but they have not given a total. They also say the attacks have caused villagers to flee to the mountains for shelter or to try to cross the border into Bangladesh.

Senior Rakhine state officials who visited the troubled area said Sunday evening that government forces were trying to restore peace.

"We are trying our best to bring stability and now we can see the areas are stabilizing," said Nyi Pu, the state's chief minister. "But anything can happen at any time, so I can't say what will happen."

Dr. Win Myat Aye, union minister of social welfare, relief and resettlement, said: "We are now focusing strongly on the security matters to make the area more secure. And we are also we are increasing our military strength."

The two men spoke to reporters in the state capital, Sittwe, in the southern part of the state, far from the fighting. They also said the government was trying to protect members of international aid organizations in the area, or evacuate them if they desired. The government has allowed only a limited number of foreign aid organizations to work in northern Rakhine state, and due to long-standing communal tensions, some Buddhists resent their helping Rohingya.

Witnesses and refugees on the Bangladesh border said Sunday that the situation there was tense, with thousands of Rohingya trying to flee Myanmar but unable to leave. Witnesses said they heard the sound of gunshots. Bangladeshi villagers said they could see military helicopters hovering in the Myanmar sky.

Several hundred Rohingya got stuck in a "no man's land" at one border point in Bangladesh's Bandarban district, barred from moving farther by Bangladeshi border guards. Lt. Col. Manzurul Hasan Khan of Border Guards Bangladesh said they cordoned off about 1,000 Rohingya after they attempted to enter Bangladesh.

Still, more than 2,000 Rohingya entered Bangladesh overnight through two points at Teknaf in Cox's Bazar district, said Jalal Ahmed, a local government official at the Kharangakhali border point.

A Rohingya insurgent group, the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army, or ARSA, took responsibility for Thursday night's attacks on more than 25 locations, saying they were in defense of Rohingya communities that had been brutalized by government forces.

Suu Kyi's office accused the insurgents of "torching police outposts and monasteries, killing innocent people and planting mines."

ARSA, meanwhile, accused the army of using civilians as human shields.

Clashes were continuing on Sunday, with witnesses contacted by phone in the northern Rakhine town of Maungdaw saying they could hear gunshots.

Independent confirmation of the situation is difficult because the government bars journalists from the area.

Suu Kyi's office issued an official warning to media on Sunday, saying "some media" have been referring to the group as "insurgents" instead of "terrorists." On Friday, the government declared ARSA a terrorist organization, which means most contacts with it are illegal. Sunday's announcement specifically said "we warn the media to avoid writing in support of the group."

The government refuses to recognize Rohingya as a legitimate native ethnic minority, calling them Bengalis to reflect the position that they are mostly illegal immigrants from neighboring Bangladesh. Most Rohingya are denied citizenship and its rights.

The Rohingya have long faced severe discrimination and were the targets of violence in 2012 that killed hundreds and drove about 140,000 people—predominantly Rohingya—from their homes to camps for the internally displaced, where most remain.

Divers find remains of all missing from USS McCain collision

SINGAPORE (AP)—Divers have recovered the remains of all 10 sailors who went missing after the USS John S. McCain and an oil tanker collided near Singapore last week, the U.S. Navy said Monday.

Navy and Marine Corps divers had been searching in flooded compartments of the destroyer for days after the damaged ship docked in Singapore. The cause of the Aug. 21 collision is under investigation.

The crash ripped a gash in the McCain's hull, flooding crew berths and machinery and communications rooms.

The commander of the Navy's Japan-based 7th Fleet was fired last week after a series of accidents this year raised questions about its operations. The firing of Vice Adm. Joseph Aucoin, a three-star admiral, was a rare dismissal of a high-ranking officer for operational reasons.

The Navy also ordered an operational pause for its fleets worldwide to make sure all steps are being taken to ensure safe and effective operations. The Pacific Fleet will also carry out a ship-by-ship review of its vessels, looking at navigation, mechanical systems, bridge resource management and training.

The victims ranged in age from 20 to 39 years old and came from eight U.S. states:

- Charles Nathan Findley, 31, Electronics Technician 1st Class, from Amazonia, Missouri
- Abraham Lopez, 39, Interior Communications Electrician 1st Class, from El Paso, Texas
- Kevin Sayer Bushell, 26, Electronics Technician 2nd Class, from Gaithersburg, Maryland
- Jacob Daniel Drake, 21, Electronics Technician 2nd Class, from Cable, Ohio
- Timothy Thomas Eckels Jr., 23, Information Systems Technician 2nd Class, from Manchester, Maryland
- Corey George Ingram, 28, Information Systems Technician 2nd Class, from Poughkeepsie, New York
- Dustin Louis Doyon, 26, Electronics Technician 3rd Class, from Suffield, Connecticut
- John Henry Hoagland III, 20, Electronics Technician 3rd Class, from Killeen, Texas
- Logan Stephen Palmer, 23, Interior Communications Electrician 3rd Class, from Decatur, Illinois
- Kenneth Aaron Smith, 22, Electronics Technician 3rd Class, from Cherry Hill, New Jersey

ASIAN BRIEFS

Jailed South Korean leader draws small but growing protests

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A small but growing army of often elderly men and women regularly swing South Korean banners and scream outrage at the jailing of a woman they consider their spiritual mother: disgraced former President Park Geunhye. Pro-Park demonstrations remain tiny relative to earlier protests in which millions demanded her removal from office for South Korea's biggest corruption scandal in decades. Her supporters refuse to accept the possibility that Park may not be the selfless daughter of South Korea she has always portrayed herself to be. Thousands of her supporters marched in Seoul this weekend, demanding Park's release and urging a "dying" South Korea to "wake up." The intensity of the protests may rise soon. Park could receive a lengthy prison term in a trial expected to reach a verdict in mid-October.

Local official: 10 killed in Afghanistan suicide attack

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Ten people, including soldiers and civilians, were killed when a suicide car bomber attacked an Afghan army convoy in southern Helmand province, a local official said. Atiqullah Khan, Nawa district director, said Sunday the majority of the dead were soldiers who were targeted by the attacker. At least eight others were wounded, he said. No one immediately claimed responsibility. Omer Zwak, spokesman for the provincial governor in Helmand, confirmed the attack and causalities, but couldn't provide an exact number of dead and wounded. Khan said the number of casualties could rise. In the past two years, and after the withdrawal of most foreign combat troops, the Taliban have stepped up attacks and spread out from their southern heartland across the country. Attacks in the north have also increased.

Security high before Indian court sentences guru for rapes

NEW DELHI (AP)—A curfew is in place in a north Indian town where a spiritual guru who was convicted of rape last week is scheduled to be sentenced Monday. A judge will travel to the prison in Rohtak town where the bling-loving guru, who calls himself Dr. Saint Gurmeet Singh Ram Rahim Ji Insan, has been held since being convicted Friday. The conviction had sparked violent protests by his followers that left at least 38 people dead. Trains and buses leading to Rohtak have been cancelled to prevent his supporters from gathering there. Local police said several layers of security were in place around the prison and government troops had permission to use firearms if violence erupted. The guru faces seven years to life in prison.

World

100 police killed in Rio, on pace to be worst year in decade

AP
Police and relatives attend the burial of Sgt. Fabio Cavalcante, 39, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Sunday, Aug. 27, 2017.

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—Military police on Sunday buried the 100th officer to be killed in Rio de Janeiro state this year, a 39-year-old who was shot multiple times while off duty and visiting his father.

The grim milestone underscores a surge in violence in Rio, Brazil's signature city that just a year ago hosted the 2016 Summer Olympics. Authorities acknowledged in recent months that drug trafficking organizations and other criminal gangs now control large areas of the city. Thousands of soldiers have been deployed to help police, but even their presence has not slowed the bloodshed.

A sense of desperation could be felt among the 200 people who attended the funeral for Sgt. Fabio Cavalcante on Sunday afternoon. Cavalcante's wife was so distraught that she could barely walk during the procession and had to be held up by the fallen officer's brother, himself a part of the force.

Cavalcante, the father of an 8-year-old, was killed Saturday in Baixada Fluminense, one of Rio's most violent districts. Several armed men approached, apparently intending to rob him. When they learned he was a police officer, he was shot at least 10 times, his father, who Cavalcante was visiting, told local media.

"We were supposed to have a picnic today with the wives and widows of police officers," said Rogeria Quaresma, the wife of an officer in attendance. "How long? How long is this going to keep happening before someone does something?"

Rio has long been the deadliest place for law enforcement in Brazil, which is Latin America's largest nation. Going back to the 1990s, the number of officers slain in the state each year has almost always gone over 100.

What has security experts worried this year is the pace of slayings of military police officers, the force responsible for patrolling and apprehending suspects. At the current rate, 2017 is on track to be the deadliest year since 2006, when 153 officers died, according to military police data.

That spike is being mirrored in myriad crime data across the board, a surge fueled by rising unemployment in the wake of a major recession, an inability by the broke state government to pay thousands of public employees on time and a political crisis from a mega corruption scandal that has shifted the focus of many lawmakers away from Rio's perennial security problems.

There is also growing consensus that Brazil's criminal gangs, which are heavily armed and control many of Rio's hundreds of slums, are strengthening. Earlier this year, gang-led slaughters in several Brazil prisons left at least 130 dead.

Many Rio residents, particularly in slums, loathe police, which have long been accused of corruption and excessive force. Every year, several hundred civilians are killed during police operations.

A Human Rights Watch report found that more than 8,000 people were killed by Rio police between 2005 and 2015, the majority young black men. While many were criminals shooting at police, many others were caught in the crossfire or even killed deliberately without provocation.

Adding to the problems is the erosion of a pacification program launched several years ago that aimed at building connections between officers and residents. Budget cuts have slashed program funds, and today neighborhoods previously lauded as "pacified" are increasingly dangerous.

Paulo Storani, the former captain of an elite squad of military police known by the Portuguese acronym BOPE, says that drugs have long powered the gangs because they provide ample resources while police forces are often working at a "deficit" of funds, training and arms.

What has him most worried of late, however, is the way officers are dying. While some are killed during confrontations, more are falling while off duty. That can happen because an officer sees a crime being committed and gets involved without the backup of his team, or because his position as officer makes him a target.

"Criminals are motivated to kill police," said Storani.

All of Brazil was able to witness such brazenness in the killing of the 99th officer, Mabel Sampaio, on Thursday.

Street cameras in his neighborhood, obtained by local media and broadcast nationwide, captured the officer pulling into the garage of his home. Seconds later, a young man carrying a pistol can be seen walking in. Sampaio was shot several times and died en route to the hospital.

"I feared that this would happen, and that day has come," his daughter Giulia wrote on her Facebook page. "They have destroyed our family. Unfortunately, this world is filled with monsters."

Local leaders say 1,000 dead from Sierra Leone mudslides

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone (AP)—More than 1,000 people have died from the mudslide and flood that hit Sierra Leone's capital nearly two weeks ago, a local leader and a minister said Sunday during services honoring the disaster's victims.

The government had earlier put the death toll for the Aug. 14 mudslide at 450 dead, while rescuers and aid groups warned that many of the more than 600 people missing would likely not survive.

"Over 1,000 perished in the mudslide and flood disaster, and we will never know the exact number now," Elenoroh Jokomie Metzger, the head of the women of Regent, said. Regent is an area on the outskirts of Sierra Leone's capital, Freetown, where the mudslide hit.

Hundreds of burials have taken place, while rescue and recovery efforts have continued through rain that could bring fresh tragedy due to unsafe housing conditions.

Reverend Bishop Emeritus Arnold Temple, who delivered the Sunday sermon at a Methodist church near Regent, said an accurate count was important for accountability.

"It may well be over 1,000 Sierra Leoneans we are mourning now. But why should about 1,000 of our compatriots' lives end tragically like this?" Temple said. "Who should we really blame? We are bound at a point in the blame game to attribute the blame so that corrective measures can be put in place so that never again should we allow this to happen."

First lady Sia Koroma, wife of President Ernest Bai Koroma, also spoke during the ceremonies.

"I stand here with a heavy heart. We have been through many calamities in our country," she said. "We should all do self-examination and learn to be obedient to man-made laws, especially when the government plans to take action for the development of the country."

Thousands of people living in areas at risk during heavy rains have been evacuated. Aid groups are delivering supplies and helping provide clean water to prevent a health crisis.

Some critics accuse Sierra Leone's government of failing to learn from past disasters in Freetown, where many poor areas are near sea level and lack good drainage. The capital is also plagued by unregulated construction on its hillsides.

Guatemala's president plunges into constitutional crisis

GUATEMALA CITY (AP)—Two days after prosecutors announced they would seek to lift Guatemalan President Jimmy Morales' immunity, he ordered the expulsion of the head of a highly praised U.N. anti-corruption commission and plunged into a faceoff with the nation's top court and the international community.

It was a stunning reversal for a president whose predecessor had been forced to resign by the same body's investigation two years earlier and who campaigned as the panel's biggest advocate. "Neither corrupt nor a crook" was Morales' campaign slogan.

What happened between the television comedian taking office in January 2016 and the constitutional crisis he provoked Sunday was that the U.N. commission and the aggressive Guatemalan prosecutors it has helped train over the past decade turned their sights on him and allegations of illegal campaign financing.

Morales has strenuously denied any wrongdoing, and rumors swirled last week that Morales' visit to U.N. headquarters in New York was to get rid of the commission's head, Ivan Velasquez. By Friday afternoon, Velasquez stood beside chief prosecutor Thelma Aldana to announce that they were asking a court to start the process for removing Morales' immunity from prosecution, a move that would eventually need the support of congress.

"It's based on his own personal interest," Jo-Marie Burt, a senior fellow with the Washington Office on Latin America and a professor in the school of public policy and government at George Mason University, said of Morales' decision to oust Velasquez.

That order quickly ran into Guatemala's Constitutional Court, which temporarily suspended the expulsion while it studies the case, based on arguments that Morales had a fundamental conflict of interest. At least one Cabinet minister resigned in protest and the foreign minister was fired for refusing to expel Velasquez, people gathered in the capital in several spots to demonstrate against the decree, and the United States, European Union and others expressed deep concern about the president's action.

Not only are prosecutors investigating the campaign financing of the party led by the Morales, but his brother and son have been ordered to stand trial for an alleged tax fraud scheme.

Morales remained defiant, issuing another statement later Sunday saying he stood by his original order in spite of what the court ruled.

Focus

Samsung heir sentenced to 5 years in prison

By YOUKYUNG LEE
AP BUSINESS WRITER

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A South Korean court sentenced the billionaire chief of Samsung to five years in prison for crimes that helped topple the country's president, a stunning downfall that could freeze up decision making at a global electronics powerhouse long run like a monarchy.

The Seoul Central District Court said Friday that Lee Jae-yong, 49, was guilty of offering bribes to Park Geun-hye when she was South Korea's president, and to Park's close friend, to get government support for efforts to cement his control over the Samsung empire. The revelations that led to Lee's arrest in February fed public outrage which contributed to Park's removal.

A panel of three judges also found Lee guilty of embezzling Samsung funds, hiding assets overseas, concealing profit from criminal acts and perjury. Prosecutors had sought a 12-year prison term.

The court said Lee and Samsung executives who advised him caused "a big negative effect" to South Korean society and its economy.

"The essence of the case is unethical collusion between political power and capital," the court said in a statement. It led the public to fundamentally question the public nature of the president's work and to have "mistrust in the morality of the Samsung group," it said.

The families who control South Korea's big conglomerates, known as chaebol, were lionized a generation ago for helping to turn South Korea into a manufacturing powerhouse put public tolerance for double standards that put them above the law has been rapidly diminishing.

Analysts said the verdict will not immediately have an impact on Samsung's business operations, which are overseen by three chief executives. The company has successfully weathered past crises that include two recalls of Galaxy Note 7 smartphones prone to catch fire and Lee's arrest. It is set to report its highest-ever earnings this year.

But long-term business decisions, such as finding future growth areas and identifying companies for acquisitions, may have to be put on hold.

"South Korea's chaebol system is similar to monarchy," said Park Sang-in, a professor at Seoul National University. "In the monarchy system, you need a king."

There is also potential for a destabilizing family feud over inheritance when the elder Lee dies.

"Samsung was in the middle of change and that has stopped," said Park Ju-gun, chief executive at CEO Score, a private corporate watchdog. "That is a big risk."

AP

Samsung Electronics Co. Vice Chairman Lee Jae-yong, right, leaves after his verdict trial at the Seoul Central District Court Friday, Aug. 25, 2017 in Seoul, South Korea.

Business lobby groups, while refraining from openly criticizing the verdict, expressed concerns that Lee's absence from the helm of Samsung would take a toll on the South Korean economy. Samsung accounts for about one fifth of the nation's exports.

"Samsung Electronics represents South Korea as a global company so we are deeply worried about the fallout from his long absence," said a Korea Employers Federation spokesman. "It will be a disaster not just to an individual company but to the nation's economy."

The verdict, however, could be good news for shareholders at South Korean companies who have complained about weak corporate governance that let founding families wield outsized influence and enjoy emperor-like authority even with minority ownership.

South Korean President Moon Jae-in's office, in a rare commentary on a court ruling, welcomed the ruling as a step toward rooting out corruption.

"We hope that it would pave the way to end persistent government-business collusion, which has hampered society from moving forward," its spokesman Yoon Young Chan said.

Lee was accused of offering $38 million in bribes to four entities controlled by Choi Soon-sil, a long-time friend of Park, in exchange for government help with a merger that strengthened Lee's control over Samsung after his father suffered a heart attack in 2014.

Samsung has not denied transferring corporate funds. But Lee, vice chairman at Samsung Electronics and the Samsung founder's grandson, claimed innocence during the court hearing. He said he was unaware of the foundations or the donations, which were overseen by other executives.

The closely-watched verdict is the latest convulsion in a political scandal that prompted millions of South Koreans to protest last fall, culminating in the ouster and arrest of Park as well as the arrests of Choi and Lee. Park, who was embroiled in a tumultuous series of scandals, was removed from office in March. She and Choi are both currently on trial.

Judges pointed to an unusual arrangement in which Samsung bankrolled equestrian training for Choi's daughter as proof of Lee's knowledge of what was transpiring.

They said Lee was aware that Park wanted Samsung to sponsor the equestrian training.

Samsung secretively provided a huge amount of money to Choi's Germany-based company that paid for the training and the exorbitantly priced foreign horses worth 3.6 billion won ($3.2 million) were part of the bribes, the verdict said. The attempts to hide Samsung's involvement also constituted crimes, it said.

In total, Samsung paid $7.9 million in bribes to the German company and a winter sports center, the judges said.

The verdict also dealt a blow to Samsung's publicly stated position that recent business dealings or restructuring efforts have nothing to do with the succession of corporate leadership to Lee from his father. Instead, Samsung has insisted that a merger of two Samsung companies at the center of the scandal was about creating business benefits. Judges rejected Samsung's argument.

"He was set to benefit most from the succession work, which was part of the favors sought from the president," Kim Jin-dong, the head judge, said.

Other former Samsung executives charged with Lee were also found guilty.

Choi Gee-sung, a mentor of Lee, and Chang Choong-ki were sentenced to four years in prison. Two other former executives received suspended prison terms.

The ruling in Lee's case can be appealed twice. Samsung will appeal the ruling immediately, Song Woo-cheol, a Samsung attorney, told reporters.

Q&A: Samsung chief is jailed. Here's what you need to know.

By YOUKYUNG LEE
AP BUSINESS WRITER

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Samsung heir Lee Jae-yong, the de facto leader of South Korea's most successful business group, was sentenced Friday to five years prison for offering bribes and other crimes.

Lee, 49, was groomed to lead the conglomerate that was founded by his grandfather and became such a dominating force in South Korea that it's mockingly called "Republic of Samsung" by the public.

He took a higher profile role at the world's largest maker of smartphones, television sets and microchips that power consumer electronics after his father suffered a heart attack in 2014 and was poised to cement control. Instead, at the end of last year Lee was implicated in a massive political scandal that culminated in President Park Geun-hye's ouster.

The court said he was guilty of offering bribes to the former president and her close friend Choi Soon-sil to facilitate a smooth handover of power at Samsung, which is a publicly traded company. Park and Choi are also on trial. A Samsung lawyer said the guilty verdict would be appealed.

HAS LEE LOST HIS HOLD ON SAMSUNG?

It's almost a rite of passage for the bosses of family-controlled South Korean conglomerates known as chaebol to go to prison for white collar crimes only to later make a comeback. Some were pardoned and others got sentences reduced on appeal.

Lee's own father was twice convicted for tax evasion but received a special presidential pardon so he could help South Korea win its bid to host the Winter Olympics for the first time.

But the princeling's case may be different because the public is increasingly unwilling to indulge the double standards long enjoyed by families who were lionized a generation ago for helping to turn South Korea into a manufacturing powerhouse.

The ousted Park's replacement as president, Moon Jae-in, was elected on hopes his administration would end cozy ties between government and business and end the emperor-like rule of chaebol families.

"It's an entirely different world now," said Park Sang-in, a professor at Seoul National University. "The public's perception of the problems at chaebol and the need to reform chaebol has significantly changed."

Perceptions of Lee's business competency have also been damaged by the trial. To insist on his innocence, he gave testimony that made him appear clueless and not in charge.

"He was stumbling, stammering, unsure of the basic functions of his own company and its offices," said Geoffrey Cain, the author of an upcoming book on Samsung.

HOW HAS THE PUBLIC REACTED?

Many expected Lee would get a prison sentence because the judiciary has been criticized for past leniency toward major white collar crime. Lee's sentence is among the longest prison terms ever handed out in South Korea to a member of a prominent business family. Usually they get suspended sentences or pardons.

Civic groups said sentencing Lee to prison time was a meaningful step toward justice. But others thought the punishment was too light.

"I think the court should have accepted prosecutors' request for 12 years in prison," said Choi Sukun, a 37-year-old teacher in Seoul. "Given the gravity of the case, I think the ruling is too generous."

Business lobby groups, while refraining from openly criticizing the verdict, expressed concerns that Lee's absence from the helm of Samsung would take a toll on the South Korean economy, given Samsung accounts for about one fifth of the nation's exports.

"Samsung Electronics represents South Korea as a global company so we are deeply worried about the fallout from his long absence," said a spokesman at the Korea Employers Federation, a pro-business lobby group. "It will be a disaster not just to an individual company but to the nation's economy."

But South Korea's presidential office took the verdict as a step forward, issuing an unusual commentary on a court ruling. "We hope that it would pave the way to end persistent government-business collusion," a presidential spokesman said, according to Yonhap.

IS SAMSUNG'S FUTURE IN JEOPARDY?

Samsung Electronics, the crown jewel of the Samsung group, has reported record profits despite Lee's arrest in February and a damaging recall for Galaxy Note 7 phones that were prone to battery fires.

The financial success was largely thanks to events set in motion by Lee's father in the 1990s. The elder Lee made the decision to break into the memory chip industry and followed up with massive and risky investments that rivals could not match every year.

Those investments are paying off. Samsung, the world's largest maker of memory chips for servers, mobile devices and computers, was the biggest beneficiary of supply constraints and explosive demand for mobile devices that pushed up prices. The boom in the memory chip industry is expected to last a couple of years.

Longer term, however, some analysts see risks for Samsung and its flagship Samsung Electronics.

"South Korea's chaebol system is similar to monarchy," said Park, the Seoul National University professor. "In the monarchy system, you need a king."

There is also potential for a destabilizing family feud over inheritance when the elder Lee dies.

"Samsung was in the middle of change and that has stopped," said Park Ju-gun, chief executive at CEO Score, a private corporate watchdog. "That is a big risk."

Overdrive

The Car you keep overlooking, but shouldn't

By LARRY PRINTZ
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

If you wanted to escape to one of the most populous cities in the United States for a long weekend, there are some tempting choices. America's 10 largest cities include New York, San Jose, Los Angeles, Phoenix, San Antonio, San Diego, and Chicago, among others.

Then there's Philadelphia.

Once the nation's capital and, in Colonial times, the second-largest English-speaking city in the world, it was America's largest city until 1840, and is home to some of its most historic and cultural touchstones like Independence Hall, Rocky Balboa, and cheesesteaks. Now the nation's fifth-largest city, it rarely attracts the attention its more glamorous top 10 associates get.

So it's fitting that one of the city's most famous sculptures is Claes (CQ) Oldenburg's "Clothespin." By enlarging diminutive everyday objects that you otherwise wouldn't notice, the artist provided a metaphor for Philadelphia's perennial overlooked state, a reputation it's long had. Consider native comedian W.C. Field's barb that he went to Philadelphia "but it was closed." And he grew up there.

And while Philadelphia deserves more consideration, it's not alone. Any number of cities, services, and products go overlooked day in and day out.

Exhibit A: the five-door 2017 Volkswagen Golf, starting at $19,895.

Its more glamorous high-performance cousins, the GTI ($25,595-$30,890) and Golf R ($39,375), grab all the press, not to mention most of this model's sales. In fact, the pair outsold its plainer sibling by nearly 44 percent for the first seven months of 2017. Given the difference in price, you might be surprised to learn that there's still much to love in the base Golf.

For 2017, Volkswagen has eliminated the two-door Golf, and reduced the number of trim lines to a base S model, and a more lavish Wolfsburg Edition.

All Golfs come well equipped, with the expected power goodies as well as a 6.5-inch touchscreen infotainment system. It's ready for the 21st century thanks to auxiliary-in, an SD card slot, HD Radio, SiriusXM Satellite Radio capability, a USB multimedia interface with Apple iPhone/iPod/Android Auto integration, Bluetooth with audio streaming, and a rearview camera.

Stepping up, the Wolfsburg Edition adds a panoramic sunroof; leatherette seats; keyless access, push-button start; heatable front seats; automatic headlights; rain-sensing windshield wipers; 16-inch aluminum-alloy wheels; forward collision warning with autonomous emergency braking; and blind spot monitors with rear traffic alert. That's a lot of extra equipment for a mere $2,800.

And let's not forget the Golf's sleek exterior provides 93.5 cubic feet of interior space and 22.8 of cargo space, and that's before you fold the rear seats.

Power comes from a turbocharged, intercooled 1.8-liter four-cylinder engine also found in the Jetta sedan. Rated at 170 horsepower and 199 pound-feet of torque, it's mated to a five-speed manual or six-speed automatic transmission. However, choosing the manual reduces maximum torque output to 184 pound-feet, but increases fuel economy by 1 mpg on the highway, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

Reaching 60 mph from a standstill takes 7.3 seconds, more than enough for daily commuting. But it's not speed that distinguishes this model; it's the Golf's impeccable demeanor, delivering the sort of nuanced performance that other automakers never master.

Its athleticism allows drivers to enthusiastically tackle corners while its ride remains more compliant than plusher, larger midsize sedans. Its precise steering is quick and its transmission is responsive, making the car a blast to drive. It never feels underpowered, harsh, or like the economy car it is.

Enhancing the experience is a generous list of equipment, and a quiet, well-assembled cabin with soft-touch surfaces, quality materials, and space for four adults and their gear.

It's a car that indulges your automotive passion while satisfying your desire for practicality. In fact, it delivers everything that you need in a car. And it does so at a very reasonable price.

This may not be so come 2018, when a revised Golf arrives with updated front and rear trim, LED lighting, a larger, 8-inch touchscreen, revised instrument cluster and more trim levels, no doubt at a higher price. But mechanically, the car will remain unchanged.

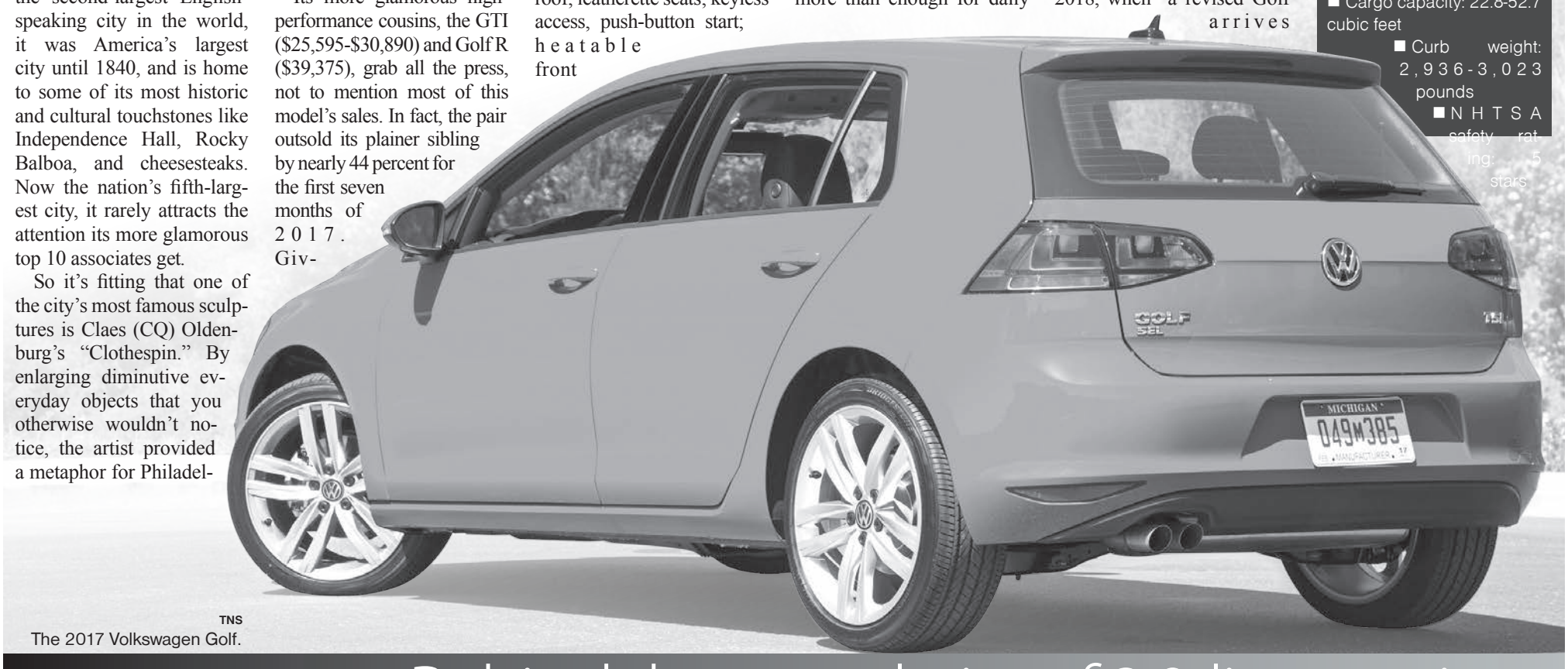
That makes the overlooked 2017 Volkswagen Golf one of the great buys right now. So let everyone else buy an overpriced SUV; smart buyers will get one of these.

It's as smart as taking trip to Philly – maybe even smarter.

NUTS & BOLTS

2017 Volkswagen Golf Stats

- Base prices: $19,895-$22,695
- Engine: turbocharged, intercooled 1.8-liter four-cylinder
- Horsepower: 170
- Torque: 199 pound-feet
- EPA fuel economy (city/highway): 25/35 (automatic), 36 (manual)
- Wheelbase: 103.8 inches
- Length: 167.5 inches
- Cargo capacity: 22.8-52.7 cubic feet
- Curb weight: 2,936-3,023 pounds
- NHTSA safety rating: 5 stars



TNS
The 2017 Volkswagen Golf.

UNDER THE HOOD: Behind the popularity of 2.0-liter engines

By Brad Bergholdt
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Q: I was curious why there seems to be such a huge number of 2.0-liter engines on the market now. What is there about this size that makes it so popular?—Frank H.

A: What we're seeing, thanks to the benefits of direct fuel injection, variable valve operation, and turbocharging are four-cylinder engines with plenty of power for the average car. Light weight and easy packaging are bonuses as well. Why 2.0 liters of displacement? A while back European scientist/engineers determined that 500cc (0.5-liter) cylinders were the ideal size for internal combustion engines. Keeping an engine's internal surface to volume ratio as low as possible is also desired as less combustion heat is transferred to the cylinder head, and hydrocarbon emissions are minimized. This means many engines now have a bit longer stroke and smaller bores than before. Looking around at various engines, particularly BMW, Mercedes, and VW shows the 0.5-liter concept; 1.5-liter three cylinder, 2.0-liter four cylinder, 3.0-liter six cylinder, 4.0-liter eight-cylinder, and 6.0-liter twelve cylinder engines. It wasn't that long ago that wringing 100 horsepower per liter of engine displacement was an impressive feat. Now many manufacturers are hitting 150 horsepower and above. Mercedes' CLA45 AMG is pumping 355 horsepower from a 2.0-liter engine.

Q: I've got this one tire that loses about 3 pounds of air each month. It drives me nuts to have to keep checking and refilling it. At the last oil change I had them check it for leaks and they couldn't find one. I've probably got another year maybe two left on it. Sealer? Live with it? —Val B.

A: Most tires lose about a pound a month, with a lot of variables. Possible leakage points are the tire valve-stem connection at the wheel, the core (valve) inside, the tire-wheel bead seal, and a puncture, likely in the tread area. I'm wondering if your service place used a tire leak testing tub or simply sprayed water on it. Your leak is small but should show up with a diligent inspection. An application of tire sealer would likely do the trick except that it might make trouble with your TPMS sensor inside and it makes such a mess you'd need to bring a box of doughnuts and a big smile to the next person who'll need to service or replace the tire.

How about mixing up a dash of dishwashing liquid and water in a spray bottle and double checking at least the accessible parts of the tire yourself? Don't forget also to remove the valve stem cap and gently snug the valve core, using the appropriate tool. You might try using a brush to work the soapy solution a little more into the tire bead and tread areas. With patience and repositioning the tire on the ground, there's a good chance the leak will show up.

If it turns out the leak is at the bead, there's a chance the tire was nicked slightly during installation, the wheel bead wasn't adequately cleaned, or the wheel's surface plating is flaking or eroding. A bead sealer product can be applied to the surfaces to help with minor flaws.

Life & Style

MTV VMAs full of emotional, political moments; Lamar wins 6

NEW YORK (AP)—Kendrick Lamar was the king of the 2017 MTV Video Music Awards, winning six awards on a night full of emotional performances, political moments and a new, eye-popping Taylor Swift music video.

Lamar's "Humble" won video of the year, best hip-hop video, direction, cinematography, art direction and visual effects on Sunday at the Forum in Inglewood, California. He also gave an explosive performance of "Humble" and "DNA," backed by ninjas dancing near fire.

But the VMAs, hosted by a forgettable Katy Perry with performances by Miley Cyrus and Ed Sheeran, was tamer than most years, not relying on the shock value and wild antics of past shows. Instead, touching performances and powerful speeches took center stage.

Logic performed his inspirational song "1-800-273-8255," named after the phone number for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. He was joined onstage with suicide attempt survivors as well as singers Alessia Cara (best dance video winner) and Khalid (best new artist winner). Lyrics from Logic's song include: "I don't wanna be alive/I just wanna die today" and "I want you to be alive/You don't got to die today."

Kesha introduced the performance and also offered words of encouragement: "As long as you don't give up on yourself, light will break through the darkness."

Pink was also emotional when she accepted the Michael Jackson Video Vanguard Award, telling the audience a story about her daughter, who was sitting in the crowd with her father Carey Hart. Pink said her daughter recently told her that "I'm the ugliest girl I know ... I look like a boy with long hair."

Kendrick Lamar accepts the award for video of the year for "HUMBLE." at the MTV Video Music Awards at The Forum on Sunday, Aug. 27, 2017, in Inglewood, Calif. AP

Pink said she then showed her 6-year-old daughter photos of performers such as Michael Jackson, David Bowie, Janis Joplin, George Michael, Elton John and Freddie Mercury.

"You are beautiful and I love you," Pink said to her daughter.

Rock singer and Oscar winner Jared Leto remembered Linkin Park's Chester Bennington, who hanged himself in July. Leto also mentioned Chris Cornell, who hanged himself in May.

"I think about his band, who were really his brothers, and I remember his voice," Leto said of Bennington. "That voice will live forever."

"Hear me now, you are not alone. There is always a way forward. Reach out. Share your thoughts. Do not give up," Leto added.

The night also featured political moments focused on the Aug. 12 rally in Charlottesville, Virginia that turned violent after Nazis and white nationalists opposed to the city's plan to remove a statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee clashed with counter protesters. Heather Heyer, 32, was killed when a car plowed into a crowd.

The Rev. Robert Wright Lee IV, a descendent of Gen. Lee, told the audience: "As a pastor it is my duty to speak out against racism, America's original sin."

Heyer's mother then entered the stage, telling the audience: "Only 15 days my ago, my daughter Heather was killed as she protested racism. I miss her but I know she's here tonight."

Bro announced The Heather Heyer Foundation, a nonprofit that will award scholarships and "help more people join Heather's fight against hatred."

Paris Jackson also spoke out against hatred.

"We must show these Nazi white supremacist jerks in Charlottesville, and all over the country, that as a nation with liberty as our slogan, we have zero tolerance for their violence and their hatred and their discrimination. We must resist," Michael Jackson's eldest daughter said before presenting an award.

Lamar's performance kicked off the three-hour show, followed by the premiere of Swift's video for "Look What You Made Me Do," which featured the singer dressed like a zombie in one scene and surrounded by slithering snakes in another. The video for the track, rumored to be a diss toward Kanye West, also featured Swift in a tub of diamonds, a cat mask, and a car that crashed (she was holding a Grammy). The clip ended with a dozen of Swifts—in memorable outfits she's worn in the past—symbolizing how the singer felt the media has portrayed her through the years.

Swift and Zayn, who didn't attend the show, won best collaboration for "I Don't Wanna Live Forever." Jack Antonoff and Sam Dew, who wrote the song with Swift, accepted the award.

Sheeran performed his hit, "Shape of You," and was later joined by rapper Lil Uzi Vert. Sheeran won artist of the year, a new award established after MTV eliminated gender categories like best male and female video.

"Thank you to all the fans," Sheeran said.

Fifth Harmony, who lost a group member last year and released their first album as a foursome last week, won best pop video for "Down." Ally Brooke and Dinah Jane of the group were in tears as they accepted the award alongside Normani Kordei, Lauren Jauregui and rapper Gucci Mane.

WINNERS LIST

- Video of the year: "HUMBLE." Kendrick Lamar
- Artist of the year: Ed Sheeran
- Collaboration: "I Don't Wanna Live Forever," Zayn & Taylor Swift
- Pop: "Down," Fifth Harmony feat. Gucci Mane
- Hip hop: "HUMBLE." Kendrick Lamar
- Dance: "Stay," Alessia Cara & Zedd
- Rock: "Heavydirtysoul," Twenty One Pilots
- Fight against the system: "Black SpiderMan," Logic feat. Damian Lemar Hudson; "Immigrants (We Get the Job Done)," The Hamilton Mixtape; "Light," Big Sean; "Scars to Your Beautiful," Alessia Cara; "Stand Up/Stand N Rock #NoDAPL," Taboo feat. Shailene Woodley; "Surefire," John Legend.
- Song of summer: "XO Tour Llif3," Lil Uzi Vert
- New artist: Khalid
- Art direction: "HUMBLE." Kendrick Lamar (Production Designer: Spencer Graves)
- Choreography: "Fade," Kanye West (Choreographers: Jae Blaze, Guapo, Matthew Pasterisa, Teyana Taylor & Derek Watkins)
- Cinematography: "HUMBLE." Kendrick Lamar (Cinematographer: Scott Cunningham)
- Direction: "HUMBLE." Kendrick Lamar (Directors: Dave Meyers, The Little Homies)
- Editing: "Wyclef Jean," Young Thug (Editors: Ryan Stake, Eric Degliomini)
- Visual effects: "HUMBLE." Kendrick Lamar (Company: Timber/Lead: Jonah Hall)

VMA artists, speakers call for equality, suicide prevention

The MTV Video Music Awards are known for creating viral moments meant to shock or amaze. But this year's show was a much more grown-up affair that was full of important speeches, exciting performances and pop culture events.

Several award presenters called for equality, including the mother of a woman who was killed while protesting white supremacists in Charlottesville, Virginia, and a descendant of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee. Other artists reached out to those suffering from depression. Pink taught her daughter a valuable lesson of self-acceptance.

Finally, Kendrick Lamar, the night's big winner, set the stage ablaze at the beginning of the show, while Taylor Swift said goodbye to her reputation in a new music video.

Here are the show's top moments:

Pink's lesson of love

Pink was honored on Sunday night with the Michael Jackson Video Vanguard Award. After performing a medley of her hits atop a car suspended from cables and riding around on a lawnmower, Pink used her acceptance speech to address her 6-year-old daughter, Willow, who arrived on the red carpet in a three-piece suit to match her parents' suits.

The Grammy-winning singer said her daughter told her recently she felt like she was ugly. Pink responded that many artists, from Jackson to Prince to David Bowie and even herself, were regularly made fun of, but pressed ahead with their art to inspire others.

"We don't change," Pink said. "We take the gravel in the shell and make a pearl. And we help other people to change so they can see more kinds of beauty."

And in closing, she reminded her daughter: "You my darling are beautiful."

Not alone

The musical community was hit hard this year with the suicides of two rock artists, Linkin Park's Chester Bennington and Soundgarden's Chris Cornell. Jared Leto, actor and lead singer of the band 30 Seconds to Mars, talked about touring with both singers and how Bennington's voice was "at once ferocious and delicate. That voice will live forever." Leto used the tribute to reach out to those suffering with thoughts of suicide.

"Hear me now: You are not alone," Leto said. "There is always a way forward. Reach out. Share your thoughts. Do not give up."

That sentiment was amplified during a performance by Logic, Alessia Cara and Khalid, who performed a song for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, "1-800-273-8255." The performers were joined on stage by suicide attempt survivors, some of whom were crying. Logic said the song was "a platform to talk about something that mainstream media doesn't want to talk about: mental health, anxiety and depression."

A call for equality

Throughout the night, the persistent theme for many artists and presenters on the stage was to call for unity and equality. Paris Jackson, daughter of Michael Jackson, said that America has zero tolerance for violence, hatred and racism.

Susan Bro, whose daughter Heather Heyer was killed when a man drove his car into a crowd in Charlottesville, said people all over the world had been inspired by her daughter's courage.

"I want people to know that Heather never marched alone," Bro said. "She was joined by people from every race and every background in this country."

The violence in Charlottesville was sparked by the city's decision to remove a statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee. One of his descendants, the Rev. Robert Wright Lee IV, introduced Bro and said his ancestor has become a symbol of racism.

"We have made my ancestor an idol of white supremacy, racism and hate," Lee said. "As a pastor, it is my moral duty to speak out against racism, America's original sin."

Diana's common touch changed the monarchy forever

LONDON (AP)—There was a time when scenes like this at London's Olympic Park would not have happened: Prince William, the heir to the British throne, sprinting down the track with his wife, the Duchess of Cambridge, and his brother, Prince Harry, to the cheers of other runners in a relay race this year promoting mental health.

It was so human. So accessible. So Diana.

Princess Diana, a preschool teacher thrust into the glare of celebrity by her marriage to Prince Charles, dragged Britain's ribbon-cutting royals into the modern world. She made a direct connection with the public—once running her own race in a flowing white skirt and baggy sweater—and promoted causes far from the mainstream at the time, like land mine removal and AIDS research.

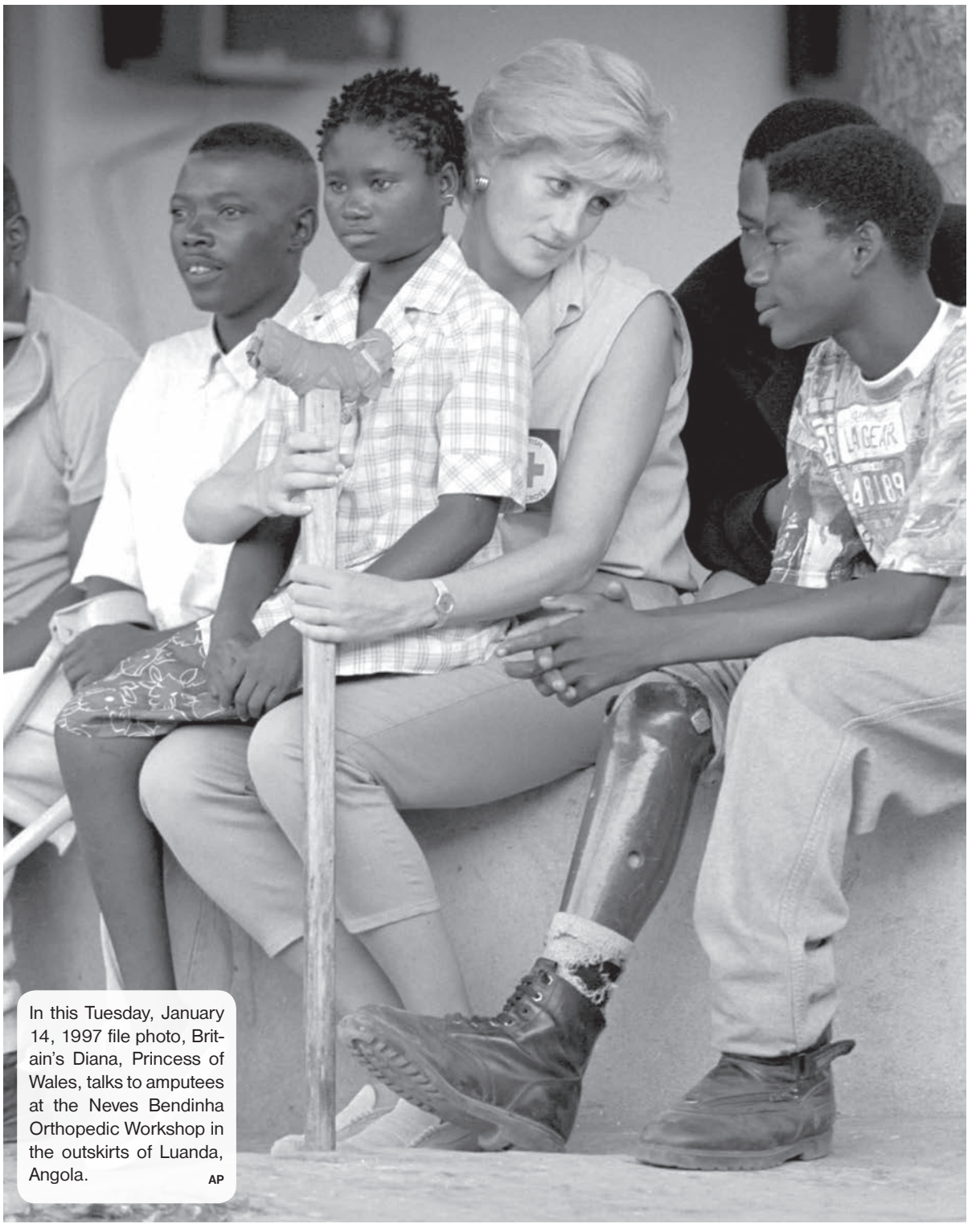
That link lives on through her two sons, who have adopted their mother's more personal approach to monarchy and in the process reinvigorated the institution.

"She was the first royal who really took the public's heart," said Sandi McDonald, 55, from south London, outside an exhibit of the late princess' dresses at Kensington Palace. "I think her sons are the same - the public just loves them."

William and Harry are the most obvious reminder of Diana's impact. They have spoken openly about their own mental health issues over losing a parent while so young and breaking down taboos just as their mother embraced AIDS patients to ease fears about the disease. But the princess' most far-reaching legacy is her popularization of the idea that celebrities can use their ties to millions of people they've never met to effect change.

Having been swallowed up by the royal machine when she was barely 20, Diana found her way in life after realizing that the public was fascinated by her every thought, says sociologist Ellis Cashmore. Diana was able to manipulate that interest to her own advantage, promoting causes such as land mine clearance and telling her side of the story when her marriage collapsed amid Prince Charles' relationship with Camilla Parker Bowles, who later became his second wife.

Today's celebrities in every field have adopted that model—created when newspapers and the evening news were the primary sources of information—and pumped it full of steroids in the world of Facebook and Instagram.



In this Tuesday, January 14, 1997 file photo, Britain's Diana, Princess of Wales, talks to amputees at the Neves Bendinha Orthopedic Workshop in the outskirts of Luanda, Angola. AP

"You can sort of trace the molecular chain or genetic chain between Diana and Kim Kardashian," says Cashmore, the author of "Elizabeth Taylor: A Private Life for Public Consumption." ''Imagine if Twitter or Facebook had been around in her (Diana's) day!"

While every wannabe celebrity today posts their secrets on social media, in the 1990s it was unimaginable that a royal would share personal hopes and fears with the world. But trapped in a loveless marriage, Diana chose to take her message to the people who loved her.

She covertly cooperated with biographer Andrew Morton to get her story out, using an intermediary who recorded tapes of her answers to the author's questions so she could deny ever having spoken with Morton.

"This was a quite remarkable thing that she was doing," Morton told The Associated Press. "Here she was, talking about the most intimate details of her life—about this woman called Camilla, about her eating disorders, about her half-hearted suicide attempts—to me who was a relative stranger. ... She was talking about things which no princess had ever spoken about before."

The gamble paid off. Diana's story was told, and the public loved her all the more. Her funeral featured an unprecedented outpouring of grief and emotion, with tens of thousands lining the streets and mountains of flowers piled outside Kensington Palace. It was a transformative event for both the royal family and for Britain, Morton said.

"No longer were we seen as the stiff-upper-lip, do-not-touch nation," Morton said. "We were seen as a trembling lower lip (nation), not afraid to emote, to shed our tears in public."

After Diana's death, the royals also learned they had to change.

Queen Elizabeth II returned to the capital from vacation in Scotland and gave a speech from Buckingham Palace that quieted days of headlines alleging she had been indifferent to Diana's death. A more accessible monarchy has followed.

Last year, as Britain celebrated the queen's 90th birthday for months, the queen joked at a street party outside Buckingham Palace that while she appreciated the cards and messages "how I will feel if people are still singing 'Happy Birthday' to me in December remains to be seen!"

As William and Harry grew up, they inherited Diana's ability to communicate. To the delight of mental health charities, they and the Duchess of Cambridge have fronted a campaign to persuade people to open up about mental health struggles. One charity, Mind, said the day after Harry spoke about his struggles after his mother's death, their public inquiry line received a 38 percent increase in calls.

"It shows how far we have come in changing public attitudes to mental health, that someone so high-profile can open up about something so difficult and personal," said Paul Farmer, the chief executive of Mind.

The young royals have also brought other luminaries into the conversation. In one video, Prince William spoke with pop star Lady Gaga, who told of her struggles with post-traumatic stress disorder.

"(Diana) knew, even from an early age, that she wanted to groom them more in the image of modern princes, that they would be able to reach out to people," said Morton. "She did not want a ... do-not-touch sign over the future of her children."

Diana also changed the public's expectations of national figures, Cashmore argues, saying Britons were no longer satisfied with a distant monarchy. Her sons' common touch is one reason for the often-denied speculation that William will take the throne after the queen's death, skipping his less popular father.

Quite simply, Diana changed the royal family, said Jenny Glossop, a fan from Worcestershire who visited the Kensington Palace dress exhibit.

"The royals were always formal and stuffy and didn't have a connection with the public. Diana came along, joined the family and changed the royals forever, because after that even the queen softened, became more approachable," Glossop said. "Her boys have grown to be Diana's boys. Everything we loved about her carries on in the family."

China's Wanda denies website report its founder was detained

BEIJING (AP)—The Chinese conglomerate that owns Hollywood studio Legendary Entertainment on Monday denied a report by a U.S. website that its chairman was detained by Chinese authorities that prompted a plunge in the share price of a Hong Kong subsidiary.

Wanda Group rejected as "malicious slander" the report by Bowen Press that Wang Jianlin was temporarily detained in the eastern city of Tianjin last week and barred from leaving China. The Chinese-language Bowen Press cited unidentified sources.

Investors are unusually sensitive to reports about the status of Chinese business leaders following the disappearance of a billionaire in Hong Kong, reports that others have been questioned by authorities and tighter government control over investments abroad.

Shares in Wanda's hotel unit traded on the Hong Kong stock exchange fell 10 percent following the Bowen Press report but partially recovered Monday and were down 6.4 percent at midday. Wanda's parent company is privately held.

Wang is one of China's richest businesspeople, with a fortune estimated by the Hurun Report, which tracks the country's wealthy, at $30 billion.

Wanda is one of the most prominent of a group of Chinese companies that have expanded aggressively abroad in recent years, investing billions of dollars in acquiring hotels, insurance companies, manufacturers of autos and robots and other assets.

Wanda bought Legendary last year. It acquired AMC in 2012, becoming the world's biggest cinema operator, and added the smaller Carmike Cinemas chain last year.

That buying spree cooled last year after Chinese regulators tightened controls over outbound investment. The central bank governor said in March that Beijing needed to rein in excessive spending on foreign entertainment and sports assets that he said did little to develop China's economy.

Wanda agreed in November to pay $1 billion for Dick Clark Productions, which produces the Golden Globes and the "Miss America" pageant. The seller, Eldridge Industries, called off the deal in March, saying Wanda failed to complete the purchase.

Financial markets were rattled in February by reports another billionaire, Xiao Jianhua, was taken from his Hong Kong hotel by mainland police, though authorities have yet to confirm that. Executives of other companies also have been detained or questioned.

Box-office eclipse: Hollywood has worst weekend in years

AP
This image released by The Weinstein Company shows a scene from, "Leap!"

NEW YORK (AP)—Hollywood effectively took the weekend off, resulting in one of the most dismal box-office results in 16 years.

An already slow August came to a screeching halt at the multiplex, where no major new releases were unveiled. That left the Samuel Jackson-Ryan Reynolds action-comedy "The Hitman's Bodyguard" to top all films for the second week with an estimated $10.1 million in ticket sales.

But the entire slate of films grossed only about $65 million in North America and the top 12 films generated just $49.6 million. There have been similarly slow weekends in recent years, including early September in 2014 and in 2016. But not since September 2001 have the numbers been quite so dreadful.

Mid-August through early September is historically the sleepiest time of the year for the movie business, but it's been especially so this year. This August is down a whopping 35 percent from last year, according to comScore. Next week is expected to be just as bad: No new wide releases are scheduled for Labor Day weekend.

For many, the weekend's top entertainment option was Saturday night's Floyd Mayweather-Conor McGregor match. The Fathom Events simulcast of the fight was one of the more popular offerings in theaters, taking in $2.4 million from 481 screens.

But the bigger problem was the death of significant releases. The six major studios have released only two new wide-release films this August: Sony's poorly received Stephen King adaptation "The Dark Tower" and Warner Bros.'s successful horror spinoff sequel "Annabelle: Creation." The latter came in second this weekend with $7.4 million, bringing its three-week total to $77.9 million.

The Weinstein Co. animated release "Leap!" was one of the few new films to hit theaters. It earned a scant $5 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

"It's a black eye for Hollywood but not a knock-out punch," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for comScore. "Make no mistake about it, there was little foot traffic in theaters this weekend. But the story line will change in two weeks when 'It' opens."

That second recent King adaptation is the only near light on the horizon for theaters, which are struggling through the lowest-grossing summers in years. ComScore estimates that this will be the first summer in a decade not to cross $4 billion in domestic ticket sales. The summer as a whole is running 14 percent behind last year—and the deadly quiet August is a big reason.

Hurricane Harvey had a minimal effect on nationwide grosses. Instead, mediocre offerings were largely to blame. The Bruce Lee homage "Birth of the Dragon" opened with $2.5 million in 1,618 theaters for BH Tilt and WWE Studios. The low-budget Sony Christian film "All Saints" took in $1.6 million from 846 theaters.

One of the few bright spots on the weekend was the expansion of the Weinstein Co.'s "Wind River," Taylor Sheridan's thriller set on an Indian Reservation in Wyoming. The Jeremy Renner-led film expanded to 2,095 theaters and earned $4.1 million in its fourth weekend.

Steven Soderbergh's heist comedy "Logan Lucky" also held well in its second week, taking in $4.4 million. The film's $15 million two-week total, though, isn't the movie industry game-changer its makers hoped it would be .

With so little action, Warner Bros. put one of the summer's biggest hits—"Wonder Woman"—back into theaters ahead of its home entertainment release. It added $1.7 million, or about three times what the 3-D restoration of James Cameron's "Terminator 2: Judgment Day" made in 563 locations. Cameron was much criticized last week for comments he made about the feminist credentials of "Wonder Woman."

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters according to comScore. Where available, the latest international numbers also are included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

1. **"The Hitman's Bodyguard,"** $10 million ($9.1 million international).
2. **"Annabelle: Creation,"** $7.4 million ($22 million international).
3. **"Leap!"** $5 million.
4. **"Wind River,"** $4.4 million.
5. **"Logan Lucky,"** $4.4 million ($1.6 million international).
6. **"Dunkirk,"** $4 million ($5.6 million international).
7. **"Spider-man: Homecoming,"** $2.7 million ($2.8 million international).
8. **"Birth of the Dragon,"** $2.5 million.
9. **"Mayweather vs. McGregor,"** $2.4 millon.
10. **"The Emoji Movie,"** $2.4 million ($7.2 million international).

Taylor Swift sets records for Spotify streams, YouTube views

NEW YORK (AP) — Spotify says Taylor Swift has set a new global first day streaming record.

The music delivery site said Saturday it had logged more than 8 million same-day streams for her new single, "Look What You Made Me Do."

The 27-year-old singer dropped the much-anticipated song late Thursday to streaming platforms and iTunes.

She wrote and produced it with frequent collaborator Jack Antonoff, who performs in the bands Bleachers and fun. It's the first single from her sixth album, "reputation," set to be released Nov. 10.

The video for the song will premiere Sunday on the MTV Video Music Awards. A clip previewed Friday on "Good Morning America."

YouTube said Saturday the song's lyric video broke a record for that site, with more than 19 million same day views.

Film on marathon bombing survivor to premiere at hospital

BOSTON (AP)—A new film chronicling the story of Boston Marathon bombing survivor Jeff Bauman will premiere at the hospital where he and others who were injured in the 2013 deadly attack were treated.

Director David Gordon Green tells The Boston Globe the movie "Stronger" will screen at the Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital in Charlestown on Sept. 12.

The movie stars Jake Gyllenhaal as Bauman and "Orphan Black" actress Tatiana Maslany as Bauman's then-girlfriend Erin Hurley. It arrives in theaters Sept. 22.

Hurley was running the marathon and Bauman was there to cheer her on when the bombs went off. He lost both legs. The movie is based on his memoir of the same name.

Green says many of the people who treated Bauman play themselves in the movie.

Elderly usher's 'proposals' draw reaction from readers

DEAR ABBY: Regarding the letter from "Dumbstruck in the East" (April 22), whose 9-year-old daughter has been getting "proposals of marriage" from a church usher in his 70s. An old man at church said things like that to me when I was about her age. He also was always trying to hug me. It made me uncomfortable and I disliked it. My mother never thought twice about him hugging me. Years later, when I was an adult, I learned he was a pedophile.

Her parents should go directly to the minister and let him know what is going on. If the parents decide to tell the usher his comment is not appreciated, they should say it's uncalled for and please stop making that type of remark. While his comment may be harmless, you never know for sure.

ON THE SIDE OF CAUTION IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR CAUTION: Readers had various reactions to that letter. Some echoed your sentiments, while others felt differently. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I am from the same generation as the church usher. I was the little sister who was not as attractive as my older sibling. (Boys either teased or ignored me.) I remember several elderly men complimenting me in a similar fashion, and although I realized I could never date or marry someone so much older, it lifted my self-esteem.

I believe the usher was just being kind. It would be horrible if he were reported to the pastor or embarrassed by a flip remark. If the parents want to stop his comments, they should gently suggest that "in today's world his kindness might be misinterpreted." I don't think we should teach children to be mean-spirited when this man spoke freely in front of the parents.

JOAN IN KENTUCKY

DEAR ABBY: I had a different reply in mind for "Dumbstruck," whose young daughter is told by an elderly church usher that he is going to "marry" her when she grows up. Her mom could look at him and say, "I didn't realize you were ORDAINED, but how kind of you to offer to officiate!"

ANONYMOUS IN MICHIGAN

DEAR ABBY: That man needs to be reported immediately. When I was 8, a friend of my dad used to tell me all the time he wanted to marry me. One day, when my parents weren't home, he molested me. That little girl should be kept away from the usher, even if it means not going to that church.

LYNNE IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR ABBY: Next time the greeter tries the betrothal approach on the 9-year-old, her dad should chime in, "You'll have to get past ME first!" It's blunt, but it gets the message across and doesn't insult the old guy. It's just Daddy protecting his baby girl. Done!

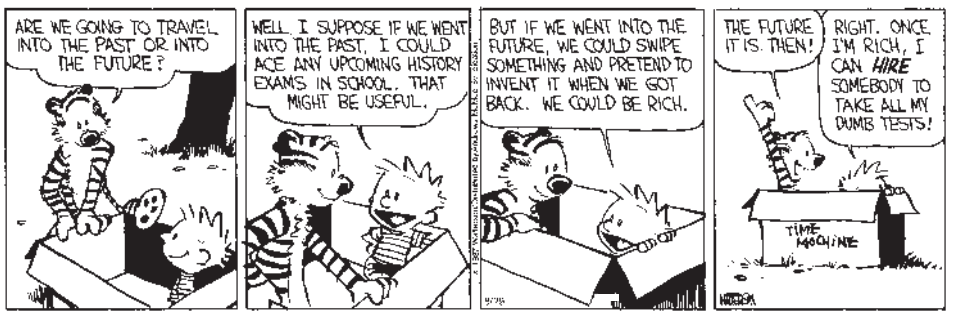
PRACTICAL IN MARYLAND

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby -- Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

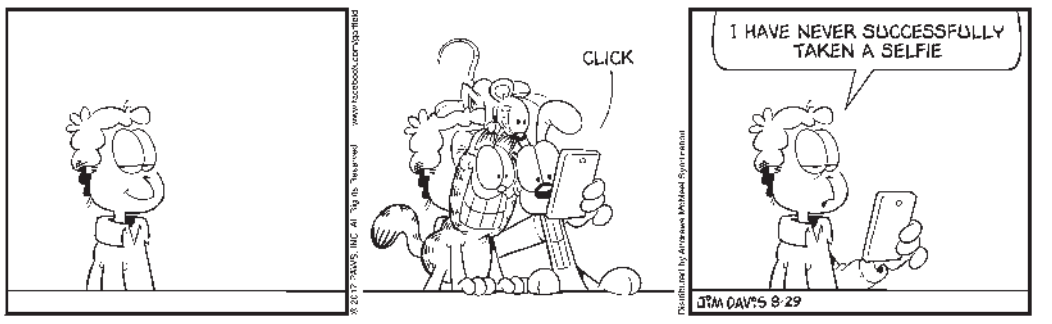
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


ARE WE GOING TO TRAVEL INTO THE PAST OR INTO THE FUTURE?
WELL, I SUPPOSE IF WE WENT INTO THE PAST, I COULD ACE ANY UPCOMING HISTORY EXAMS IN SCHOOL. THAT MIGHT BE USEFUL.
BUT IF WE WENT INTO THE FUTURE, WE COULD SWIPE SOMETHING AND PRETEND TO INVENT IT WHEN WE GOT BACK. WE COULD BE RICH.
THE FUTURE IT IS, THEN!
RIGHT. ONCE I'M RICH, I CAN HIRE SOMEBODY TO TAKE ALL MY DUMB TESTS!
TIME MACHINE

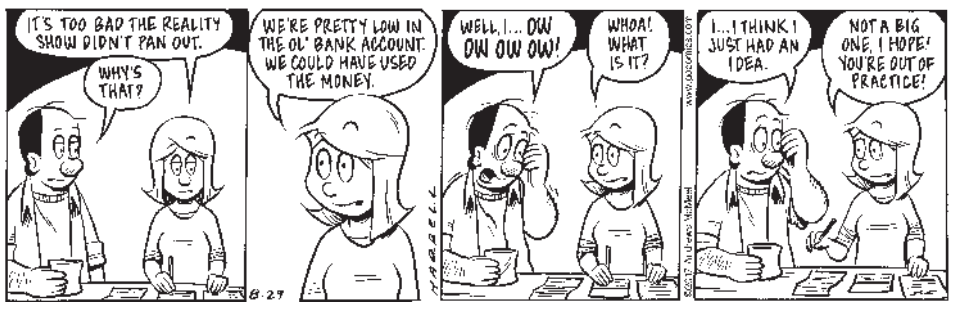
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


IT'S TOO BAD THE REALITY SHOW DIDN'T PAN OUT.
WHY'S THAT?
WE'RE PRETTY LOW IN THE OL' BANK ACCOUNT. WE COULD HAVE USED THE MONEY.
WELL, I... OW OW OW OW!
WHOA! WHAT IS IT?
I...I THINK I JUST HAD AN IDEA.
NOT A BIG ONE, I HOPE! YOU'RE OUT OF PRACTICE!
8-29

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

DOC, WHY HAVE YOUR RATES GONE UP SO MUCH?
I USE ONLY THE BEST EQUIPMENT FOR MY PATIENTS.
LIKE WHAT?
FOR INSTANCE, THESE SUEDE TONGUE DEPRESSORS.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Expel
5 Sit-up targets
8 Tiers
12 — Domini
13 Pen name
14 Wicked
15 Cape Cod town
17 Irene of "Fame"
18 Wager
19 Brunch fare
21 Interior design
24 Mint product
25 Skin care brand
26 Shake-spearean knight
30 Tall tree
31 Regions
32 West of Holly-wood
33 Stumbled
35 Oodles
36 Story lines
37 Explode
38 Fifth president
41 Flow out
42 Scram-bled wd.
43 High singing voice
48 Summit
49 Boom times
50 Activist Parks
51 Bump into
52 Grant's foe
53 Rating unit

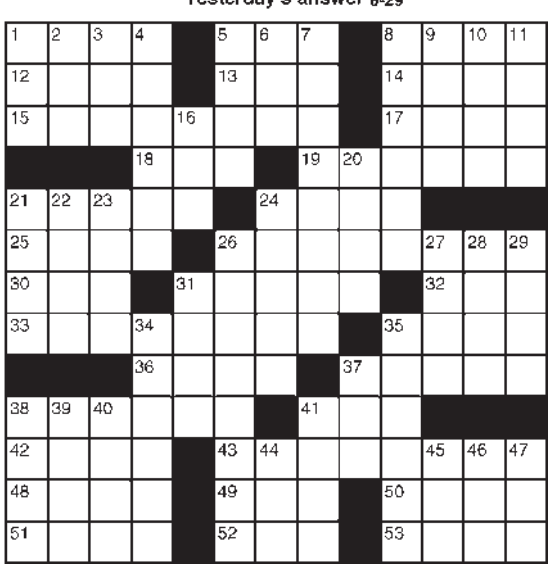
DOWN

1 Klutz
2 Italian article
3 NBC sketch show
4 Hoyden
5 Border on
6 Morsel
7 Educated
8 New
9 Elliptical
10 Hidden micro-phone
11 Blind part
16 Not 'neath
20 Avoid
21 Remove, as a hat
22 Director Kazan
23 Poet Sandburg
24 Walking sticks
26 Emphatic
27 Cupid's specialty
28 Summer coolers
29 Suffix with song or gab
31 Goose egg
34 Walmart competi-tor
35 Yams, e.g.
37 Small ammo
38 Sir's counter-part
39 Formerly
40 Christen
41 Differ-ently
44 Mimic
45 Young-ster
46 Airport screening org.
47 Crew tool

Solution time: 22 mins.

M	A	P		B	E	A	M	E		A	L	A
A	G	E		I	N	L	E	T		E	I	N
_	O	C	K	S	M	I	T	H		R	E	A
			A	H	A		R	A	T	O	U	T
P	I	A	N	O	S		O	N	E	S		
R	O	D		P	S	A		C	A	M	E	S
I	T	A	L		E	M	S		M	T	R	E
G	A	M	F	S		S	T	P		T	I	A
		S	A	N	G		R	A	T	H	E	R
J	U	M	P	O	N		U	S	O			
E	L	I		W	O	R	D	S	M	T	H	
E	N	T		E	M	C	E	E		M	A	O
R	A	H		D	E	A	L	S		P	I	E

Yesterday's answer 8-29



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Lauren Collins, 31; Lea Michele, 31; Carla Gugino, 46; Rebecca De Mornay, 58.

Happy Birthday: A progressive approach to obtaining your goals will help you reach your destination. Getting into petty arguments will hold you back. This is the year to take action. Focus on physically bringing about the changes you want to make, not just talking about them. Walk away from dreamers and align yourself with people who are willing to take action. Your numbers are 6, 12, 21, 24, 36, 40, 43.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Working with others can be helpful, but also undermining. Don't trust anyone with your personal information. Share only what's necessary and focus on taking care of your responsibilities. Self-improvement projects will give you a revived energy and added confidence. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Making time for friends, parents or children will be a good investment. The time spent will bring you closer together. Communication will help you understand how you can work as a team to improve your standard of living. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Physical activity will do you good and help you accomplish some of the chores you've been ignoring. Catching up with others will encourage you to begin something new. A positive change will take place if you nurture important relationships. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Get along with your peers even if someone aggravates you. Keeping emotions in check and your thoughts to yourself will help you avoid a showdown with someone who is looking for a fight. Personal growth will result in greater stability. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Make your relationships and interactions with friends and relatives a priority. Share your feelings and plan gatherings that will promote sharing and helping one another through thick and thin. Put your best foot forward. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Handle domestic situations carefully. Refuse to let emotions swell up and lead to a no-win situation. Disillusion regarding a relationship you have with someone will keep you from doing what's best for you. Search for the truth. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Your appeal will help you get ahead. Back it up with intelligence and you will be in the running for a unique position. Your performance will be your best calling card, so don't feel the urge to brag. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Personal matters are best handled with thoughtfulness, but not at the expense of neglecting your responsibilities. Be a good listener and friend, and in return ask for a helping hand to ensure that you achieve what's essential to you. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Reevaluate your relationships with some of your friends. Refuse to let anyone manipulate you. Consider what you want and back away from bad influences. A healthy lifestyle should be your first choice. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Keep your personal finances, health concerns and legal dealings a secret. The less other people know about your feelings or plans, the easier it will be for you to get things done your way. Back away from wasteful or erratic individuals. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Not everyone you meet will be as honest as you. Listen carefully and follow through to make sure you are being given authentic information. Form alliances with those willing to match your standard of perfection. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* You'll be contradicted if you stretch the truth. Take notes or have someone else serve as a witness to the negotiations you undertake. Getting all the facts straight and only offering what is feasible will be more difficult than anticipated. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are imaginative, charming and expressive. You are persuasive and interesting.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			6	1	4			
		1				2		
	9	4				7	1	
3				4				6
4			7		1			8
9				2				5
	3	6				4	9	
		7				5		
			1	3	5			

Difficulty Level ★★ 8/29

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

4	5	6	3	9	2	7	8	1
1	9	2	7	4	8	5	3	6
3	8	7	6	5	1	4	2	9
5	3	8	2	6	9	1	7	4
9	7	1	4	3	5	8	6	2
6	2	4	8	1	7	3	9	5
2	6	3	1	8	4	9	5	7
8	4	5	9	7	6	2	1	3
7	1	9	5	2	3	6	4	8

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

T-FAL PRODUCTS Solution: 6 letters

E	L	T	T	E	K	C	O	O	K	W	A	R	E	L
O	T	I	M	U	I	N	A	T	I	T	E	S	T	A
S	P	N	N	M	E	A	L	S	N	L	W	S	M	F
P	D	T	A	E	S	L	W	O	B	O	R	I	E	T
I	A	R	I	V	N	T	M	A	K	E	R	S	A	N
L	E	C	K	C	A	C	K	A	Y	P	T	I	T	O
C	R	R	C	E	O	C	A	R	T	A	O	A	O	I
O	B	E	A	E	A	O	F	R	R	I	L	H	A	S
O	S	T	N	T	S	Y	K	T	E	E	S	V	S	I
L	E	C	S	I	H	S	U	F	N	L	I	S	T	C
T	P	A	L	T	D	P	O	T	S	V	O	N	E	E
O	I	R	L	E	G	N	A	R	U	T	A	N	R	R
U	C	A	I	B	L	U	E	A	I	R	G	R	I	P
C	E	H	R	R	E	V	I	L	O	E	I	M	A	J
H	R	C	G	S	R	E	M	A	E	T	S	N	A	P

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Accessories, Avante, Blue Air Grip, Bowls, Bread, Ceramic, Character, Clipso, Cookware, Cool Touch, Dine, Grill, Healthy Fryers, Iron, Jamie Oliver, Kettle, Linen Care, Matisse, Meals, Meat, Natura, Opticook, Pans, Pots, Precision, Prima, Range, Recipes, Shop, Snack, Stackable, Startup, Steamers, Talent, Test, T-Fal, Titanium, Toaster, Viva, Wok

Yesterday's Answer: Ribtoberfest

To purchase **THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 37 through 50,** order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 48 puzzles.)

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JVA for YANO Enterprises, Inc.
Dba: Kinpachi Restaurant

Cook (2): Must be experienced & skilled in preparing Japanese cuisine including but not limited to sushi, sashimi, & tempura. Can prepare all menu items according to quantity menus, must know cutting and preparation techniques for each type of fish used in sushi rolls as well as how to prepare rice, sauces and seasonal ingredients, must ensure that ingredients are fresh, colorful and always in stock, that the all-important knives are sharp and clean, and that all equipment is in working order. Must be able to maintain kitchen & observe safety & sanitary food handling practices as well as other related duties.

Restaurant Waitress (3): Greeting Customers. Must be able to speak basic Japanese & efficient English & have a friendly & outgoing personality. Should be knowledgeable of the restaurant dishes, familiar with the entire menu the establishment offers. Can introduce & recommend daily specials as well as the restaurant's regular menu items. Continued services after the meal have been served and accept payments & other duties related.

General Maintenance (2): Duties may involve skills in electrical, plumbing, carpentry, masonry, painting, landscape or maintain grounds of property using hand or power tools or equipment. Can typically perform variety of task such as sod laying, mowing, trimming, planting, watering, fertilizing, digging, raking and installing , repairing buildings, floors or stairs.

Additional Requirements: All applicants must be of good health and have a good moral character, must be able to follow grooming standards, must be able to obtain required food handler health certificate, must be able to provide current police clearance, with reliable transportation and must agree to drug test. Can work in flexible hours including weekends and night time.

Applicants of positions listed above except Restaurant Waitress (3 months work experience) are required to have a minimum of 2 - 4 year experience. Applications can be picked up at Kinpachi Restaurant in Coral Tree Avenue, Garapan.

We are an equal opportunity employer. Qualified applicants will be considered.
Interested applicants must apply in person, applications can be picked up at
Kinpachi Restaurant in Coral Tree Avenue, Garapan.
Please no phone calls.

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Sports
Yankees weather rain, Royals comeback
PAGE 25
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Torres: Earthjustice lawsuit affects military's plans. PAGE 3
CUC waiting for executive director candidate to accept offe
EVEN AS USCIS SETS 2017 CW-1 CAP AT 12,99
'CNMI needs to tap available W
» Cap is 1 less than 2016 number
CUC: Gulick, DHS ignoring advice on CW-1 cap 'mind
» Sirok discloses DHS' confidential deal with CUC for 9 of its 13 affected CW-1 workers
Finance resident
ALLEGEDLY EMBEZ
MONDAY SEPTEMBER 5, 20
Schorr ranking
ppines in AFC qu

WHATZIT Solution: Hand over fist

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Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

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Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Stanton hits No. 50 to help Marlins beat Padres 6-2

MIAMI (AP) — Giancarlo Stanton hit his 50th home run to break an eighth-inning tie, helping the Miami Marlins sweep the San Diego Padres with a 6-2 victory on Sunday.

Stanton became the first National League player to reach 50 homers since Prince Fielder hit 50 for Milwaukee in 2007. Stanton's 17th homer in August tied him for the second-most in MLB history in the month, behind Rudy York's 18 in 1937.

With the score 2-all, Dee Gordon singled to lead off the eighth. Stanton then drove a 2-1 pitch from Clayton Richard (6-13) into the hedge in center field.

The All-Star slugger also walked, doubled home a run and singled in four plate appearances, hiking his average to .296. He increased his RBI total to 108, a career high.

Dan Straily, Kyle Barraclough (5-1) and two other pitchers combined on a seven-hitter. The Marlins' three-game sweep and fourth consecutive victory overall gave them 13 wins in the past 16 games.

AP

Miami Marlins' Giancarlo Stanton hits a home run during the eighth inning of a baseball game against the San Diego Padres, Sunday, Aug. 27, 2017, in Miami.

Twins 7, Blue Jays 2

In Toronto, Byron Buxton homered three times and set a career high with five RBIs, powering the Twins to the win.

Buxton had four hits, scored four runs and stole a base in his first career multihomer game. Kyle Gibson (8-10) pitched into the seventh inning as Minnesota earned a rare series victory north of the border.

Coming into the day, the Twins had a half-game lead over the Angels and Mariners in the race for the second AL wild card. Minnesota has won a major league-best 15 games since Aug. 6.

Nori Aoki homered for the Blue Jays, who have dropped seven of nine. Joe Biagini (3-9) allowed five runs and nine hits in 3 2/3 innings.

Indians 12, Royals 0

In Cleveland, Yan Gomes hit a grand slam to highlight Cleveland's nine-run second inning, and the AL Central-leading Indians completed a three-game shutout sweep.

Carlos Carrasco (13-6) allowed six hits in seven innings, and the Indians, who haven't given up a run in 28 innings, outscored the Royals 20-0 in the series.

It's the first time Cleveland has posted three straight shutouts since 1956.

Kansas City hasn't scored in 34 consecutive innings, a team record and the longest drought in the majors this season.

Royals left-hander Eric Skoglund (1-2) was charged with seven runs and seven hits in 1 1/3 innings.

Phillies 6, Cubs 3

In Philadelphia, rookie Rhys Hoskins homered for the fifth straight game and made a diving catch to start a game-changing triple play in the fifth inning, leading Philadelphia to the victory.

Nick Williams also connected for the Phillies, who have gone deep in nine straight games, hitting 20 homers over that span.

Hoskins led off the eighth with a drive to left-center to give him 11 home runs in his first 18 games, becoming the fastest in major league history to reach 11 homers. Hoskins, who has 24 RBIs, was called up from Triple-A Lehigh Valley on Aug. 10.

Nick Pivetta (5-9) allowed three runs in five innings to get the win. Hector Neris worked a perfect ninth for his 16th save.

Anthony Rizzo drove in two runs for the NL Central-leading Cubs. John Lackey (10-10) yielded five runs, four earned, and six hits in five innings.

Brewers 3, Dodgers 2

In Los Angeles, Jimmy Nelson took a no-hit bid into the sixth inning and the Brewers beat Yu Darvish in his return from the disabled list.

Hernan Perez homered and Domingo Santana had two hits and an RBI for Milwaukee, which took two of three at Dodger Stadium. The Brewers pulled within two games of the first-place Cubs in the NL Central.

Los Angeles had gone 19-0-3 in series since dropping two of three games at home against Washington from June 5-7.

Nelson (10-6) was charged with two runs in 6 2/3 innings. Corey Knebel worked the ninth for his 29th save.

Darvish (8-10) lasted only five innings.

Yankees 10, Mariners 1

In New York, Masahiro Tanaka finally flourished under the sun, Starlin Castro had four hits and the Yankees took advantage of a record five errors by the Mariners in the first inning.

Mariners shortstop Jean Segura committed three early miscues — two on one play. Third baseman Kyle Seager and left fielder Ben Gamel also botched balls as the Yankees scored six runs, one earned, in the first inning against Andrew Albers (2-1).

That made it an unusually easy afternoon for Tanaka (10-10), who entered 0-6 with an 11.81 ERA in seven starts during the day this season. He struck out 10 while pitching seven innings of one-run ball.

New York took two of three in the series and moved within 2 1/2 games of first-place Boston in the AL East after Baltimore completed a three-game sweep at Fenway Park with a 2-1 victory.

Seattle's five errors were the most in an inning in club history. The previous major league team to make five errors in one inning was the 1977 Chicago Cubs, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

Orioles 2, Red Sox 1

In Boston, Adam Jones and Trey Mancini hit back-to-back RBI doubles against Doug Fister in the first inning, and the Orioles held on for a three-game sweep of the AL East-leading Red Sox.

One outing after his shocking one-hitter, in which he gave up a leadoff homer and held the Indians hitless the rest of the way, Fister (3-7) again struggled in the first inning before settling down. But this time the Red Sox couldn't erase the early deficit, stranding 13 and batting 1 for 13 with runners in scoring position.

It was the fourth straight loss for Boston, matching its longest losing streak of the season.

Baltimore's Wade Miley (8-10) allowed one run in five-plus innings. Brad Brach got the last five outs for his 17th save as the Orioles won their fourth in a row.

Astros 7, Angels 5

In Anaheim, California, Brian McCann tripled with the bases loaded in the eighth inning, rallying Houston to the road win.

Jose Altuve sparked the winning rally with a two-out single against Cam Bedrosian (3-3). Josh Reddick then singled and Yuli Gurriel walked before McCann's drive just got over a leaping Mike Trout in center field, giving Houston a 7-5 lead.

The Angels loaded the bases against Ken Giles in the ninth, but designated hitter Albert Pujols flied out to center field to end the game. Joe Musgrove (6-8) got the win and Giles earned his 26th save.

Diamondbacks 11, Giants 0

In Phoenix, Patrick Corbin pitched seven-plus innings in his fourth straight win, J.D. Martinez homered twice and Arizona pulled away for the victory.

Paul Goldschmidt, Martinez and Daniel Descalso hit consecutive homers in Arizona's nine-run eighth inning. The Diamondbacks swept the three-game series and have won six of seven, maintaining a 1 1/2-game lead over Colorado for the top NL wild card.

Corbin (12-11) allowed five hits and struck out eight.

Giants starter Chris Stratton (2-3) struck out 10 in six innings. He allowed two runs and four hits.

San Francisco has lost four of five to fall to 52-80.

Athletics 8, Rangers 3

In Oakland, California, Matt Olson and Matt Chapman hit consecutive homers in the second inning, and the Athletics beat the Rangers to complete a three-game sweep.

Shin-Soo Choo hit his 16th home run and the Rangers added an unearned run, but managed little else against Jharel Cotton (7-10) and three relievers. Blake Treinen retired five batters for his seventh save.

The loss dropped Texas three games behind Minnesota for the second AL wild card.

Rangers right-hander A.J. Griffin (6-5) was charged with three runs and five hits in 3 1/3 innings.

Mets 6, Nationals 5, 1st game

Nationals 5, Mets 4, 2nd game

In Washington, Sean Doolittle allowed a run before improving to 13-for-13 in save opportunities with Washington and the Nationals took advantage of four straight walks by Mets pitchers to salvage a doubleheader split.

Doolittle gave up an RBI single to Jose Reyes with two outs in the ninth, but then got Juan Lagares to line out to left to stay perfect in save chances since a mid-July trade from Oakland.

Tanner Roark (11-8) pitched six innings of three-run ball and Adam Lind had a homer and two RBIs for Washington in the nightcap. Anthony Rendon and Wilmer Difo each added two hits, and Washington took advantage of four straight walks __ three by reliever Hansel Robles (7-5) — in the sixth inning to force a split of the four-game series.

Amed Rosario hit a solo homer in the eighth inning to lift New York to a win in the first game. Jerry Blevins (6-0) got the win and A.J. Ramos worked two innings for his 25th save in 27 chances.

Joe Blanton (2-3) got the loss.

Rays 3, Cardinals 2, 10 innings

In St. Louis, Logan Morrison hit his second homer of the game in the 10th inning, sending Tampa Bay to the road win.

Morrison drove a 97-mph fastball from Sam Tuivailala (3-3) into the right-center field bleachers with one out in the 10th for his 31st homer.

Sergio Romo (3-1) got three outs and Alex Colome worked a scoreless 10th for his major league-leading 39th save in 44 chances.

All five runs in the game were scored on solo homers.

Kolten Wong and Matt Carpenter connected for St. Louis.

Rockies 3, Braves 0

In Atlanta, Jon Gray pitched five-hit ball into the seventh inning and Mark Reynolds hit a two-run homer, leading Colorado to the victory.

Gerardo Parra had two hits and scored two runs as Colorado took two of three from Atlanta for its first road series win since also winning two of three at Washington from July 29-30.

Gray (6-3) struck out seven and walked two. Jake McGee worked the ninth for his third save.

Mike Foltynewicz (10-10) lost his fourth straight start despite allowing only one run and four hits in five innings.

White Sox 7, Tigers 1

In Chicago, White Sox right-hander Lucas Giolito threw seven scoreless innings to earn his first major league victory.

Giolito (1-1) allowed three hits in his second start with the White Sox after they acquired him in a December trade with Washington.

Matt Davidson homered and Yolmer Sanchez had three hits for the White Sox, who have won four of five.

Ian Kinsler hit his 14th home run for the Tigers, who lost for the 16th time in 21 games. Matthew Boyd (5-8) allowed five runs and seven hits in six innings.

Pirates 5, Reds 2

In Cincinnati, John Jaso and Starling Marte each drove in two runs as Pittsburgh earned its second straight win.

A.J. Schugel (3-0) pitched two scoreless innings and Felipe Rivero got three outs for his 16th save.

The last-place Reds left 11 runners on base, including three in the ninth, while slipping to 2-4 on their nine-game homestand.

Reds rookie Tyler Mahle (0-1) allowed three runs and four hits in five innings in his first major league start. He walked four and hit a batter.

Johnson pulls off a stunner over Spieth in Northern Trust

OLD WESTBURY, N.Y. (AP)—In a FedEx Cup playoff opener that felt like a heavyweight bout, Dustin Johnson delivered back-to-back blows to beat Jordan Spieth in The Northern Trust.

One was a putt from 18 feet.

The other was a drive that traveled 341 yards.

Down to his last shot, Johnson watched his 18-foot par putt stay on the high side of the hole and thought for sure it would miss. He took two steps of hope to the right, and then pumped his fist in a rare show of emotion when it swirled around and dropped in the back side of the cup for a 4-under 66 to force a playoff.

Given new life, Johnson relied on his strength and powered a drive over the lake to the far edge of the fairway. It was the longest drive all week on the 18th hole, and it left him a 60-degree wedge to 4 feet for birdie and a victory he badly needed.

The No. 1 player in the golf finally looked the part again.

"It was fun to be in the hunt again and know that my game is going to hold up under pressure," Johnson said.

Spieth lost for the first time in six tries when leading by two shots or more, and there wasn't much he could do except take back that tee shot into the water on the par-3 sixth hole after building a five-shot lead. Johnson played bogey-free over the final 29 holes.

"I didn't lose the tournament," Spieth said after closing with a 69. "He won it."

It was great theater between Johnson and Spieth, good friends who now are No. 1 and No. 2 in the world.

"I thought that was a fun show," Spieth said. "I was hoping it wasn't going to be that much fun."

Johnson made up a five-shot deficit in five holes, and they battled along the back nine with big shots and big moments.

They were tied on the par-3 17th when both hit into a bunker, and Johnson blasted out to 4 feet with an easier shot and angle to the hole. Spieth had 18 feet for par and knocked it in, like he always seems to do.

On the closing hole, Johnson showed the kind of golf I.Q. that belies his simple outlook on life. After he sliced his drive up the hill and into a nasty lie in the rough, he chose to lay up instead of trying to hammer a shot to an elevated green.

But he made it pay off with a par, that got him into the playoff after Spieth lagged a 75-foot putt perfectly to get his par.

They finished at 13-under 267.

AP

Dustin Johnson watches his tee shot on the 15th hole during the final round of The Northern Trust golf tournament on Sunday, Aug. 27, 2017, in Old Westbury, N.Y.

Johnson was angry with himself after his tee shot in regulation for not taking it over the water, even with a light wind in his face.

"Right after I hit my drive, I was like, 'What am I doing?'" Johnson said. He told his caddie, brother Austin Johnson, that if they got into a playoff, he wouldn't make the same mistake twice. It took the most clutch putt Johnson has made in his career, and he blasted his best drive of the week.

Spieth knew it was going to be tough when they returned to the tee and felt the wind switch in their favor.

"I was hoping he was not going to notice that," Spieth said.

Johnson won for the first time since he wrenched his back during a spill down the stairs that knocked him out of the Masters and derailed his dominance in golf. He had won three straight tournaments against strong fields until that injury.

"I feel like the game is finally back in form like it was before the Masters," Johnson said.

Of his 16 victories, this was the first time Johnson faced a must-make putt on the final hole, and he delivered a par putt that even Spieth thought was going to miss on the high side of the hole.

"But his body language was hanging in," Spieth said. "I'm like, 'Does that really still have a chance?' And it came around and lipped it. My initial thought was, 'I just did that exact thing to him the hole before.'"

The Northern Trust never looked as though it would contain so much drama.

Spieth began with a three-shot lead and he stretched it to five shots with a 30-foot birdie putt on the fifth hole.

Five holes later, they were tied.

Spieth's tee shot on the next hole banged off the rock wall and into the water on the par-3 sixth, and he made double bogey. On the ninth hole, Spieth took three putts from just off the left side the green, and Johnson made a 7-foot birdie putt for another two-shot swing.

No one else really had a chance.

Jon Rahm (68) ran off three straight birdies early on the back and briefly was one shot behind, though he had stronger holes ahead of him and fell back. Jhonattan Vegas (65) was within two shots after playing the scoring holes. They tied for third, four shots behind.

Otherwise, it was a matter of who finished among the top 100 in the FedEx Cup to move on to the TPC Boston next week for the second playoff event.

Bubba Watson shot a 70 and tied for 10th, to become one of eight players to qualify for the second playoff event all 11 years of the FedEx Cup. David Lingmerth and Harold Varner also moved into the top 100. That marked the fewest players outside the top 100 to advance since 2007.

Johnson moved to the top of the list. Spieth is right behind. They will play together the opening two rounds next week in Boston.

Smiles all around as Mayweather, McGregor savor fight

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Conor McGregor was drinking Irish whiskey and acting like he had won. Floyd Mayweather Jr. was reminiscing about his early days as a fighter and looking forward to a different kind of business at his strip club.

There were smiles all around, and with good reason. They pulled off an audacious gamble Saturday night, and all that was left to do was to count the money rolling in.

Mayweather estimated his take at $300-350 million. McGregor said he likely would clear $100 million, and said he had his accountants on speed dial to make sure it was all collected.

Fans of both boxing and mixed martial arts had to be happy, too. They got a reasonably entertaining fight that settled nothing about the two sports but embarrassed neither fighter.

"I enjoyed it very, very much," McGregor said. "It was an honor for me to showcase my skills."

They go their separate ways now, after a fight that had a little something for everyone. Mayweather won by battering McGregor around late until it was stopped in the 10th round, but in reality McGregor was a big winner too.

He was reasonably competent as a boxer in his first pro fight. He actually controlled the first few rounds, and was never off his feet despite taking a beating in the late rounds.

Mayweather eventually figured him out, and exposed him for the boxing novice he was. McGregor didn't become king of boxing like he predicted before the fight, but he won millions of new fans and will now likely return to the UFC as its unquestioned star.

And Mayweather?

Well, 50-0 has a nice ring to it, passing the 49-0 record of Rocky Marciano that serves as a benchmark in the sport. He got a knockout that helped erase the stain from his fight with Manny Pacquiao two years earlier. And, after earning nearly $1 billion in his 21-year career, he can get on with his varied businesses and maybe even train a few fighters himself.

"You won't see me in the ring anymore," Mayweather said. "Any guy calling me out, forget it. I'm OK. I had a great career."

Indeed, he did, winning every time he got into the ring and building his brand wisely so he could make a fortune off of it. No boxer has ever marketed himself like the man who calls himself Money, and he can now relax and enjoy his private jets, mansions and courtside seats to NBA games around the nation.

The criticism of the Pacquiao fight will now fade away, and the last image of the best defensive fighter of his generation will be of him coming forward boldly and going for one final knockout.

"I felt like I owed the fans a last hurrah," Mayweather said. "I told you guys I'd come straight ahead and I told you the fight would not go the distance."

The fight itself played out much like many in boxing expected. McGregor got off to a good start, Mayweather figured him out after a few rounds, and after that the only question was whether Mayweather would stop a fighter legitimately for the first time in nearly a decade.

He did, battering McGregor around the ring in the 10th round until the referee moved in to stop it. McGregor didn't protest, though afterward he said he wished he would have been allowed to continue.

But that was a minor quibble. McGregor may have lost but in just a few short months he did what few could have anticipated and made himself into a decent boxer who carried one of the best ever into the later rounds while remaining upright the whole time.

He may have been new to boxing, but he proved to the disbelievers in the sport that he was a true fighter.

"I was a little taken aback by the disrespect and disregard I was shown," McGregor said.

At the age of 29, McGregor is a rare superstar with a quick wit and mouth to go along with his combat skills. The price for his UFC fights will cause UFC chief Dana White some sleepless nights because in a way he is almost bigger now than the organization.

And, who knows. He may venture back into the boxing ring someday if the price is right.

"I'm young, I'm fresh and I'm ready," McGregor said. "Right now I'm a free agent. I love a good fight and tonight was a good fight. I can't tell you exactly what's next but something will be next."

That's the one thing that seemed assured as Saturday night blended into Sunday morning on the Las Vegas Strip. McGregor was sipping a whiskey he plans to market, and on his way to an appearance at a hotel nightclub.

Mayweather had an appearance of his own to make at his new strip club, where he held meet-and-greets the entire week of the fight.

First, though, the two fighters posed for final pictures, an arm around each other. They hugged, seemingly reluctant to let it all go.

The carnival was leaving town, but not before putting on a pretty good show.

NMIFA holds coaching clinic

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association technical director Michiteru Mita gestures to coaches who attended a workshop last Saturday at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.

Coaches from various football clubs on Saipan attended a clinic last Saturday at Koblerville Elementary School in preparation for the 2017 NMIFA Fall Youth League.

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association technical director Michiteru Mita facilitated the clinic and was assisted by Jershwin Angeles and Jonathan Takano. The coaches used the CNMI women's, boys U16, and U18 national team's training camps as a case study during the classroom session of the seminar, while the U18 players demonstrated drills at the Koblerville pitch in front of the club coaches.

"We reported about the training camp in Guam, Korea, and Japan. We shared with the participants the technical challenges we faced in each camp. I also shared national team players development concept and which factor we should focus on to improve our players," Mita said.

"I believe that it is very important to share these challenges with club coaches and work with them to develop our players because our players come from the clubs," the NMIFA official added.

Mikky Vargas was among the nearly 20 players who attended the weekend workshop, which gave her a different perspective about the national team program in particular and the CNMI soccer in general.

"I had been to a couple of coaching clinics but for this one, I think it was a great move on coach Mita's part to base the things that we learned during the course on the performance of our CNMI teams. He showed us some videos of the training camps and international games and explained what we lacked, what happened in a certain situation, and what could've been done to better our team's chances," said Vargas, who will coach Kanoa Football Club's co-ed U12 team and the boys U17 squad.

"So, basically he led the course with the CNMI soccer in mind. Instead of having a course with general information about coaching, we had a course with specifics to CNMI soccer. That way when we go out to our clubs we wouldn't have a jaded perspective of soccer, because we all know that our soccer is different," she added.

Raymond Zapanta, another Kanoa FC coach, agreed with Vargas' observation.

"The workshop was enlightening because I was able to learn more about our national teams—their weaknesses as individuals and as a team. As a coach, knowing these weaknesses help guide me on what skills and techniques I must help my players improve on to build a better team and improve their chances of making it to the national team," said Zapanta, who handles Kanoa FC's girls U15 crew.

For Paire Football Club's Patricia Coleman, watching the national teams train gave her more ideas how to work with her girls U15 squad.

"Coach Mita gave us an example of a training session that can be used in the competitive leagues. I appreciate his efforts to raise the standard of soccer in the CNMI," she said.

Meanwhile, Mita said NMIFA will hold more coaching workshop this year and he is encouraging the clubs to take these opportunities to help develop players and coaches in the Commonwealth.

"It was very short time and many coaches did not attend so I could not share all information but I will hold more coaching clinics or workshops to improve our coaching quality. I want to spread the joy of coaching to them," the NMIFA head coach said.

Napu to field 3 teams in Micro Cup

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Napu Outrigger Canoe Club will be sending three teams to Guam to compete in the 19th Micronesia Cup that will be held late October.

Napu president Ponce Rasa said Napu will have a men's team and junior men's and women's squads for the Micro Cup which will run from Oct. 26 to 29. The men's crew will have eight members, while the junior teams (U19 age group) have 10 members each.

"We have over 25 members who are currently on-island. Over half of them are active. We are still going through time trials so hopefully by next week we will have the names of the Napu paddlers. Many of our junior team members have graduated from high school, are attending Northern Marianas College, and have full time jobs now or moved off-island to further their education. The few on-island paddlers have merged with new members of our junior teams," Rasa said.

The Napu president added that their paddlers usually train three times a week or every Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 5pm to sundown. Sometimes, Napu members also put an extra training day, as they go to the water on Saturday morning, beginning at 8am. The Napu paddlers work on their proper techniques, strength, conditioning, and cohesion.

The group's paddlers are training hard for the Micro Cup as they aim to duplicate their feat last year when the tournament was hosted by Palau. Napu's youth paddlers recorded Top 3 finishes in the junior mix 500m, 1,500m, and long-distance course of the Micro Cup 2016.

"Our goal is to repeat our success in last year's Micro Cup. Our team brought home the most medals (nine) from Palau. We also want to promote a healthy lifestyle, most especially for our youth, help them learn effective and efficient paddling techniques, and perpetuate the culture of canoe paddling," Rasa said.

Napu paddlers will compete in the same 500m, 1,500m, and long-distance events. The men's division long distance course will cover 10 miles, while the juniors will race four miles. The women's course is eight miles, while the masters and mix are six miles apiece. Races will be held at Matapang Beach.

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have been built since Guam last hosted the Pacific Games in 1999, and only require a minimal level of refurbishment to be read to host the Games in 2019," said council president Vidhya Lakhan in a statement.

"There remains a solid core of experienced personnel in the [Guam National Olympic Committee] who delivered the 1999 Games which will aid Guam's sports federations to deliver a large scale event like the 2019 Pacific Games in a short space of time," added Lakhan, who was joined by council chief executive officer Andrew Minogue.

The council also met with Guam Gov. Eddie B. Calvo, his chief of staff Mark Calvo, chief legal counsel Sandra Miller, and Guam Visitors Bureau president and CEO Jon Nathan Denight—who acts as Gov. Calvo's point person for Guam's Pacific Games project.

Gov. Calvo has expressed that his administration fully supports Guam's bid to host the Games for the third time. He assured GNOC to financially support their proposed budget subject for approval of the Guam Legislature that approves all financial allocations.

The Guam Legislature is in the process of studying Gov. Calvo's proposed budget for fiscal year 2018. They need to approve the budget before the start of FY 2018, which is on Oct. 1.

"Guam has presented a professional expression of interest to host the 2019 Pacific Games and has demonstrated during our visit that they have the facilities and capability required to deliver a successful Games in a short space of time," said Lakhan.

"The governor's support was welcome and we trust that [we would] receive positive indication from the Legislature that the necessary financial arrangements will be approved in the event Guam is awarded [to host] the Games."

He added the Guam government's expression of interest would "ensure the stability and certainty that the [Council] is seeking in the wake of the Tongan government's withdrawal as Games host."

The council also requested Guam's Attorney General Elizabeth Barrett-Anderson, through Gov. Calvo's chief legal counsel, to approve the draft of the hosting contract if Guam was awarded the Games. Lakhan, Gov. Calvo, and GNOC president Ricardo Blas would be the signatories of the hosting contract.

The council also met with GNOC's executive board, Guam Legislature Speaker Benjamin J.F. Cruz, Sen. Dennis Rodriguez, the presidents and representatives of the proposed sports for the 2019 Games. GNOC would lead the Games' hosting if ever Guam's bid is approved by the council.

Lakhan and Minogue also inspected the proposed venues of the sports that are going to be included in the 2019 program and the Leo Palace Resort Hotel & Apartment complex that would house the athletes and other delegates.

ZARI

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done in their preparation for the IAAF World Championships. "Before the race I was thinking about the phases I go through in the run from the beginning to the end."

"For example, my take off has changed since I competed in [the Oceania Area Championships] in Fiji so I was just repeating what I needed to do on the starting blocks. In the middle of the run, I got my breathing right, stayed relaxed, and pumped my arms. I needed to focus so I could maintain my speed at that point of the race."

Breathing heavily, moments after she crossed the finish line, Sapong anxiously looked at the giant monitor at the stadium to check on her time. "I was really eager to see my time after I crossed the finish line. I was ecstatic when I saw that I broke my own [PBT]."

"After my previous performance in Fiji, I was not expecting a new [PBT]. I was just hoping to match my [PBT]. It was really an amazing feeling to have beaten it."

Despite running against some of the world's top athletes, Sapong just focused and tried not to be intimidated by their presence. "I get nervous when it comes to my performance. But I'm more focused in ensuring I run the race as best as I can."

"Not so much to think that I have the world's superstars next to me. When it comes to being with the world's stars, I'm more than excited than nervous," she added.

She plans to resume her training as soon as she has settled her class schedules at the Northern Marianas College to prepare for the Pacific Mini Games in Vanuatu in December, other future Oceania tournaments, and the regional Micronesian Games in Yap state but most especially next year's MAC that will be hosted by Saipan.

Being the reigning 100m and 200m champion in the MAC, with the latter she holds the games record of 27.87 seconds, makes her a marked person. Would she give in to pressure?

"Less pressure, but more motivation. I try not to overwhelm myself on what others expect of me but more so on what I am doing to get my goals. I hope to continue to perform better but I can only get they by continuing to train hard," Sapong ended.

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scores in each game and only turned in the final standings of the two-day event. BBC, GRC Maga'lahi, and The Alliance also joined the contest and were ranked fifth, sixth, and seventh, respectively.

The 2017 Heineken Guam Rugby Sevens was the CNMI Rugby Sevens Team's first competition since officially forming the squad early this year. The team used the Guam tournament to see where they are at as far as their preparations for the 2017 Pacific Mini Games are concerned.

Sixteen out of the 20-man pool played in Guam, while the group will be trimmed down to 12—the maximum number of players allowed to represent the CNMI to the Rugby Sevens tournament in the Pacific Mini Games that will be held in Vanuatu. Rugby will be played in the opening week of the quadrennial meet or on Dec. 8 and 9 with the Commonwealth's squad joining 12 other teams in the competition, including 2016 Olympic gold medalist Fiji and favorites Australia and New Zealand.

2017 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

The CNMI's Coume Kaga, left, and her sister Conatsu pose with their runner-up medals in the girls U14 doubles events of the 2017 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships held last week in Fiji.

Daniel Kang eyes his target.

Vincent Tudela, left, receives the ball near the net, while teammate Michael Ren gets ready to move in.

The CNMI's Sean Lee, left, and his doubles partner Jerson Freddy of the Federated States of Micronesia pose for a photo after receiving their runner-up doubles medals in the boys U14 division.

Grace Choi makes a return from the baseline.

The CNMI's Richard Steele, third left, poses with other players in the boys U14 doubles.

The CNMI Junior National Team celebrates the championship win of Carol Lee and Malika Miyawaki in the girls U16 doubles.

Seung Jin Paik uses both his hands for a shot.

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Zari treasures London experience

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Zarinae Sapong will forever treasure the chance to compete in the 16th International Association of Athletics Federations World Championships in London, United Kingdom earlier this month.

After all, she had the opportunity to see a lot of superstars in athletics especially United States sprinter Allyson Felix, whom she is a big fan of. An added bonus is when she posted a new personal best time in the 100m run.

"This is my first time participating in the World Championships. I've competed in the World Indoor Championships, the World Junior Championships, and the World Youth Championships in the past," said Sapong in an interview by *Saipan Tribune*.

"Running in the world stage is a huge honor. I get to meet new athletes and coaches, and it gives me the chance to observe the different routines and drills that each athlete goes through before their event."

The fan girl in her came out when she saw her idol, Felix, the three-time 200m run world champion and six-time Olympic gold medalist. "Yes, seeing the top athletes perform is always an awesome experience like when I witnessed Usain Bolt's last few races."

"A lot of the people I met were the top athletes of their country and they were very kind. I'm also a fan of many runners but Allyson Felix is one of my favorites. I think I was most overwhelmed when I saw her enter the warm up track with Team USA," Sapong said.

However, getting a new PBT served as the highlight of her London trip. Sapong ran in Heat 6 at the London Olympic Stadium and clocked 13.29 seconds, shaving off 0.06 milliseconds off her previous time of 13.35 in winning gold in the 2016 Micronesian Athletics Championships in Pohnpei.

"I feel that I performed well in London. I'm happy that I set a new [PBT]. I know there are new things that I have added in my routine and with more training, I hope to work through the kinks and produce better times," said the 5'2" Sapong.

She followed to the letter what she and Northern Marianas Athletics development officer Elias Rangamar had

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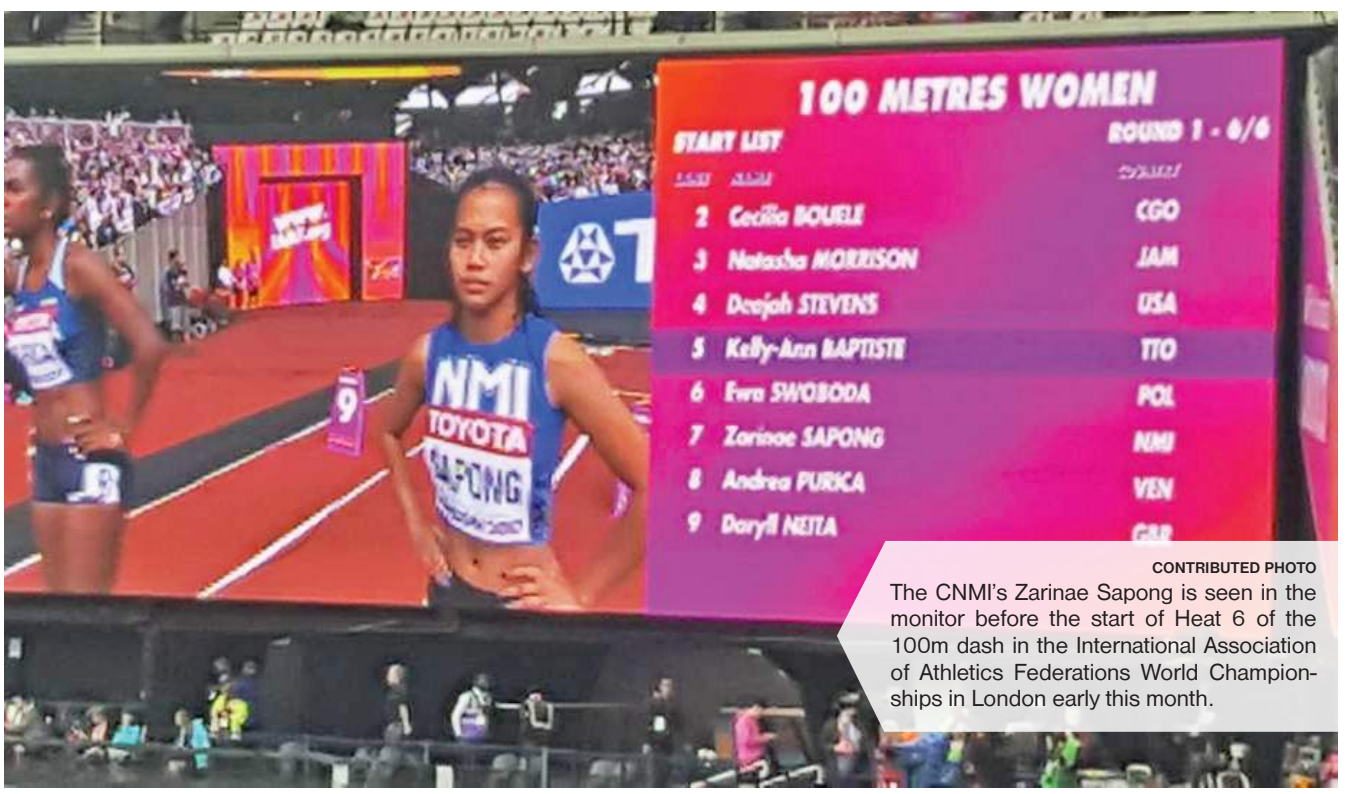

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The CNMI's Zarinae Sapong is seen in the monitor before the start of Heat 6 of the 100m dash in the International Association of Athletics Federations World Championships in London early this month.

CNMI makes semis of Rugby Sevens tourney

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The CNMI Rugby Sevens Team's Ben Jones Jr., right, tries to protect the ball from his defender during their game in the 2017 Heineken Guam Rugby Sevens held over the weekend at the University of Guam Calvo Field House in Mangilao.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Rugby Sevens Team made it to the Final Four of the 2017 Heineken Guam Rugby Sevens held over the weekend at the University of Guam Calvo Field House in Mangilao.

The squad, led by Northern Marianas Rugy Union president Stanley Iakopo and coached by Viliame Kaitabu, swept their first four games in the annual tournament last Saturday to advance to the semifinals.

In the semis, however, the CNMI lost to Flying Proas, which eventually ruled the competition after beating Guam Rugby Club Aiga in the championship game last Sunday. Iakopo and company, which lost two members in the semifinals due to red cards, played in the consolation match versus Southside and also dropped the battle for third place. Tournament organizers have yet to provide the official

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'Guam's experience a factor'

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Pacific Games Council said Guam having the core of the organizing committee that managed their hosting of the 1999 Pacific Games is their advantage in trying to bring the 2019 sporting event for the third time in the Marianas' southernmost island.

Guam has previously hosted what was then known as the South Pacific Games in 1975 in Tumon, the fifth edition, and the 11th holding of the Games in 1999 in Sta. Rita.

Guam and Samoa are the remaining candidates vying to host the Games after the council reported they won't evaluate the bid of Tahiti—the third country that also submitted a bid—after its sports officials didn't assure any support from French Polynesia's government.

Guam, Samoa, and Tahiti—French Polynesia's largest island with Papeete as capital—were the original countries that expressed their intention to host the quadrennial games at the last minute after Tonga withdrew earlier this year.

The council delegation completed their three-day visit and inspection of Guam's facilities where they also met with top officials of the government and business and sports leaders.

"The PGC delegation was impressed with all of the elements of the evaluation visit, including the proposed sporting facilities many of which

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Pacific Games Council chief executive officer Andrew Minogue, second left, stresses a point during a brief press conference for the 2021 Pacific Mini Games last year at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. Also in the photo are, from left, NMSA president Michael White, PGC president Vidhya Lakhan of Fiji, and Mini Games oversight committee chair Jerry Tan.